

## Deposed emir seeks Kuwait's support

KUWAIT (R) — Qatar's deposed emir arrived in Kuwait on Saturday on an Arab Gulf tour intended to rally support for his return to power. Officials said Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah received Sheikh Khalifa Ben Hamad Al Thani who was ousted by his son Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani in a bloodless coup in June. The former emir has said his tour of Arab Gulf states was aimed at rallying support for his return to power in Qatar, which controls the world's single largest gas field and the world's third largest proven gas reserves. The official Kuwait news agency earlier called the visit a "brotherly" one. Sheikh Khalifa is also expected to visit Saudi Arabia and Oman, diplomats said. He has already been to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Differences between Qatar and the other five Arab Gulf allies rose to the surface on Dec. 6 when the current emir refused to attend the closing session of the annual Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) summit. Qatar, which is scheduled to host next year's GCC summit, is opposed to the method used in appointing a new GCC secretary general when Doha's candidate was dropped in favour of a Saudi national.

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## Haiti thanks Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Haitian Prime Minister Smark Menchel expressed his deep thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and the government of Jordan for the effective contribution of Jordanian Armed Forces within the U.N. multi-national forces and the U.N. mission in Haiti. In a message sent to Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the Haitian prime minister stressed the fact that Jordan's response to international humanitarian efforts was unmatched at a crucial stage of Haiti's history. This response was clearly manifested in sending Jordanian security forces to help restore democracy in Haiti, the prime minister said.

## Egypt sacks railways head

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak sacked the head of Egypt's railway authority Saturday after 77 people were killed in two accidents in nine days which both involved trains ramming into the back of each other. Mr. Mubarak ordered in a presidential decree that Abdul Salam Shaath be relieved of his post immediately following the worst accident in the Egyptian railways for more than 15 years. Newspapers reported Saturday that two people were killed and eight injured when a northbound train from the southern Minya province rammed into the back of another that was heading for the capital. The driver of the Minya train and a passenger were killed in the collision. Officials at the scene blamed thick fog for the crash, the government newspaper Akhbar Al Youm said. Last Thursday, 75 people were killed and 76 injured when a crowded workers' train rammed a passenger train from behind in thick fog in the town of Badrasheen. The train drivers blamed stalled control systems and faulty signals for the collision that highlighted the poor safety record of level-crossing systems.

## EU to set up Cyprus initiative

ROME (AFP) — Italy is to launch a peace mission for the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus shortly after it takes over the rotating European Union presidency next week. Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli said Friday. She said a top foreign ministry official, Emanuele Scammarca, would visit Cyprus, Greece and Turkey from Jan. 4 to 6, to see how the EU could help with the peace process. Cyprus is divided into a Greek Cypriot region, whose government is recognised by the United Nations and the world community, and a northern Turkish Cypriot region, where the administration is recognised only by Turkey. Talks have been going on at the U.N. for several years on trying to resolve the dispute. Italy will be taking over the six-month presidency from Spain on Jan. 1.

## UNHCR begins probe in Sudan

GENEVA (AFP) — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has launched an inquiry into claims by Ethiopia that refugees in Sudan had been arrested, tortured and murdered, a spokeswoman said on Saturday. "We are taking these allegations very seriously," UNHCR spokeswoman Ruth Marshall said. A letter from the Ethiopian government to the UNHCR, made public Thursday, gave a detailed account of how Ethiopian refugees in Sudan were the victims of "harassment and continuous persecution," she said. Ethiopia said two refugees had been killed, one tortured and 220 arrested, including 53 whose whereabouts were not known and 35 who were expelled back to Ethiopia. Ms. Marshall said the UNHCR was checking out each case cited.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تطبيقية بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحافية الأردنية - الرأي

## Algerian president to name new premier soon

PARIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual is expected to appoint a new prime minister this week to replace Modad Sifi, the Algerian government-controlled newspaper El Moudjahid said. Mr. Sifi, in office since April 1994, tendered his resignation after Mr. Zeroual's election victory in November but the president asked him to stay in office until the end of the year. El Moudjahid gave no details of the make-up of the next government or who would become Algeria's sixth prime minister in less than six years. Independent newspapers reported this week that Mr. Zeroual had picked his office head, Ahmed Ouyahia, to replace Mr. Sifi. The newspapers speculated that the government line-up would include ministers drawn from three opposition parties — the moderate Islamist movement Hamas, the anti-fundamentalist Culture and Democracy Rally and the small Algerian Renewal Party. Leaders of the three parties took part in the presidential poll on Nov. 16 which was won by Mr. Zeroual with more than 61 per cent of the vote amid a large turnout despite threats by Muslim guerrillas to kill voters.

# King expresses hope East Jerusalem will be capital of Palestine

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has said that Jordan believes Jerusalem should remain a symbol for peace for all believers in God, and sovereignty over the city should not belong to any single state.

In an interview with the London-based Al Wasat magazine, the King said that Arab Jerusalem has been an occupied city since 1967, expressing hope that "it will become the capital of Palestine as the western part of the city is the capital of Israel, something which has not been recognised until now."

In reply to a question about apprehension over the democratic experiment in Jordan, the King said: "Yes, I have some apprehension over the democratic experiment because I have lived through this experiment in the 1950s. Naturally, we were shocked and met with a setback at the time with regard to democracy and with regard to all what we had hoped to achieve for Jordan to become an example for others. For this reason, I am apprehensive about the possibility of some people using democracy as a weapon against democracy in this country. I hope that all citizens will rise to a high degree of awareness to prevent this from happening and about these people's designs and I hope we all will reach a stage where we can act responsibly and participate in the decision-making process and in the shaping of the future."

Asked about the U.S. administration's response to Jordan's military requirements, the King said the response has been encouraging: "We are hoping to achieve good results from a visit by the U.S. defence secretary to Jordan on Jan. 3-5."

Asked about Jordanian-Saudi relations, the King said that these relations were very good and on the way to returning to their required level of brotherly ties.

"I hope the circumstances will allow my brother King Fahd and myself to meet soon, and I am confident that the meeting will open the way for the return of bilateral relations to their

their full rights on their national soil in a manner acceptable to them.

"Then and in an atmosphere of freedom and brotherly dialogue and on a background of strong relations the people can determine their position regarding the future and the nature of relations."

"We will continue to help the Palestinian brothers with our full power and potential and under all circumstances until they arrive at their aspired objectives," the King said.

Asked about Israeli passports issued to Arab residents of Jerusalem and whether Jordan will be ready to issue permanent passports to the Palestinians, the King said: "If it is a matter of passports the question should be discussed with the Palestinian brothers. But I believe that the Jerusalem question is one that has been placed on the agenda of the final stage of the negotiations which starts after the Israeli elections and the settlement of the Jerusalem issue within the framework of the agreed programme."

On Iraq, the King said: "Iraq is very important to us and we consider the suffering of the Iraqi people as our own. We are deeply affected with what has been going on. We believe that Iraq is at the threshold of very difficult stage: Either the country and its unity are saved through the negotiations or the tragedy that they live through. It is a mere proposal and one of many that could

be considered as one way that could bring about the required change among the Iraqis themselves following the tragedies that they live through. It is a mere proposal and one of many that could

prospects of dismemberment and disintegration, with all the danger that these developments might entail."

"Iraq's unity is our constant concern and ways to save Iraq from the suffering both in terms of the deprivation of its people of democracy, and respect of human rights or the embargo, is our duty and our service to the Iraqi people which we ought to perform with all our potentiality."

"This is our task now since we have failed over the past two years to establish a constructive dialogue with the Iraqi regime with the aim of saving Iraq from its present plight," the King said.

The King added: "The subject of federation is not a subject upon which lights should be focused. Our call to the Iraqis is to ask them to enter into a dialogue amongst themselves to tackle their national problems and reassure their future and to remove fear from their minds about a bloodbath about which they had been talking. As to the future of Iraq, the Iraqis could find reassurance through a dialogue among the representatives of various groups and factions to shape their future through an acceptable formula."

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PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat Saturday leans forward to wave to the tens of thousands of supporters gathered below as he speaks from the roof of the former

## Arafat enters Ramallah

RAMALLAH (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat declared the West Bank town of Ramallah "free forever" as he paid a triumphant first visit on Saturday following the end of 28 years of Israeli occupation.

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## ARAB BANK

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## Violence in S. Lebanon dampens positive spirit of Syria-Israel negotiations in U.S.

### Tel Aviv demands Damascus halt attacks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel on Saturday demanded that Syria rein in Hezbollah guerrillas after they rocked northern Israel and wounded two soldiers in an ambush.

Residents of northern Israel spent the night in shelters but were allowed to come out on Saturday over the rocketing.

Pro-Israel security sources in South Lebanon said another attack was launched Saturday. No group claimed immediate responsibility for the attack.

In Jerusalem, Israeli security sources said no rockets had fallen in Israel since early Saturday morning and there were no reports of a fresh Katyusha attack.

Israel pinned blame for the attacks on Syria, which it accuses of controlling Hezbollah.

Israeli radio said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher telephoned Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on Saturday over the rocketing.

"This attack comes at the worst possible time," it quoted Mr. Christopher as saying. He asked that Syria make maximum efforts to control the situation and Mr. Sharaa replied that Syria was against a military escalation, the radio said.

Earlier, a statement from Prime Minister Shimon Peres' office said: "Israel views these attacks seriously

and will act in consequence to defend the security of its border communities."

It said Mr. Peres had called on the United States to transmit a message to Syria to stop the Hezbollah actions.

Hezbollah fighters later also hit an army jeep with a missile near Barashet on the edge of the occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon, wounding two soldiers, the army said.

The Islamic Resistance, Hezbollah's armed wing, claimed it had destroyed a Centurion tank in an "ambush set by our fighters."

Israeli artillery fired more than 70 shells in retaliation

(Continued on page 7)

Yemen hails return of prisoners, but wants Eritrean withdrawal from island

peaceful manner," the weekly said.

The Yemenis continue to issue inflammatory statements, preconditions, threats and resort to intimidation."

The prisoners were taken from an army barracks on the edge of Asmara early Saturday and transferred to the waiting aircraft. Smiling and looking relaxed, they waved to local people from their buses.

An Eritrean government official said the release was a "gesture of goodwill."

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali met Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh here Saturday as part of intensive international mediation efforts.

Dr. Ghali, quoted by Yemen's official news agency, SABA, said the United Nations was prepared to offer its good offices if Sanaa and

Asmara both agreed. He was due in Asmara on Sunday.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, whose country is already mediating, said Friday that Yemen and Eritrea had agreed in principle to demilitarise the disputed islands, which guard access to strategic Red Sea shipping lanes.

Mr. Meles was speaking after separate meetings with the Eritrean and Yemeni presidents.

Eritrea has called for a joint pullback from all 200 islands in the archipelago followed by international arbitration to resolve the dispute.

## Rocket attacks kill 8 in Kabul

**KABUL (AFP)** — Eight Afghan civilians were killed and 41 injured when a deadly new wave of rocket and shell salvos struck the besieged capital Kabul, witnesses and doctors said Saturday.

Four separate barrages of artillery shells and rockets fired by the Taliban militia blockading Kabul hit three areas of the city between late Thursday and late Friday, defence officials and witnesses said.

The latest series of barrages came as a Taliban spokesman in Pakistan roundly rejected an unconditional offer by Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani that he travel to opposition strongholds — including the Taliban centre at Kandahar — for talks on resolving the country's protracted civil war.

A heavy artillery attack late Thursday killed two children, two women and a man in a city street instantly, while three other victims of the assault died later in hospital, they added.

A further 23 people were

wounded in that attack, while another 18 were injured in three other attacks late Friday, doctors at Kabul's hospitals told AFP.

Two of the salvos — one of artillery shells and one BM 21 rockets — struck a densely populated high-rise residential zone in the east of the war-battered capital Friday, injuring eight residents.

"It is miraculous that more people were not hurt or killed," said Rafiq Homar, whose four-floor flat was peppered with artillery shrapnel and had its windows blown out.

"We were in bed when there was an almighty explosion very close by. Then a huge fragment of shell hit the wall just a few feet above my head, leaving a deep crater."

"Some people's homes were completely shattered by the blasts, while hundreds of residents lost their windows, which is very difficult to deal with in the middle of a cold winter," he said.

One of the eight shells and rockets plummeted through the roof of a room in a

top-floor flat, but the owners of the apartment escaped unscathed, neighbours said.

The attacks, over a period of 24 hours, marked the fiercest and deadliest series of barrages of Kabul over recent weeks, and came after the Kabul administration appeared to extend an olive branch to other warring factions.

The defence ministry here accused the Taliban of launching the attacks from their bases south of Kabul and expressed shock at the barrages.

"We are surprised that after we offered them the opportunity of talks that they have again forced rockets randomly and deliberately on the city," a defence source said.

In an unprecedented show of apparent flexibility, Mr. Rabbani on Wednesday agreed to travel to provincial opposition bases to discuss the formation of a broad-based government for war-torn Afghanistan.

The offer includes possible talks with all factional lead-

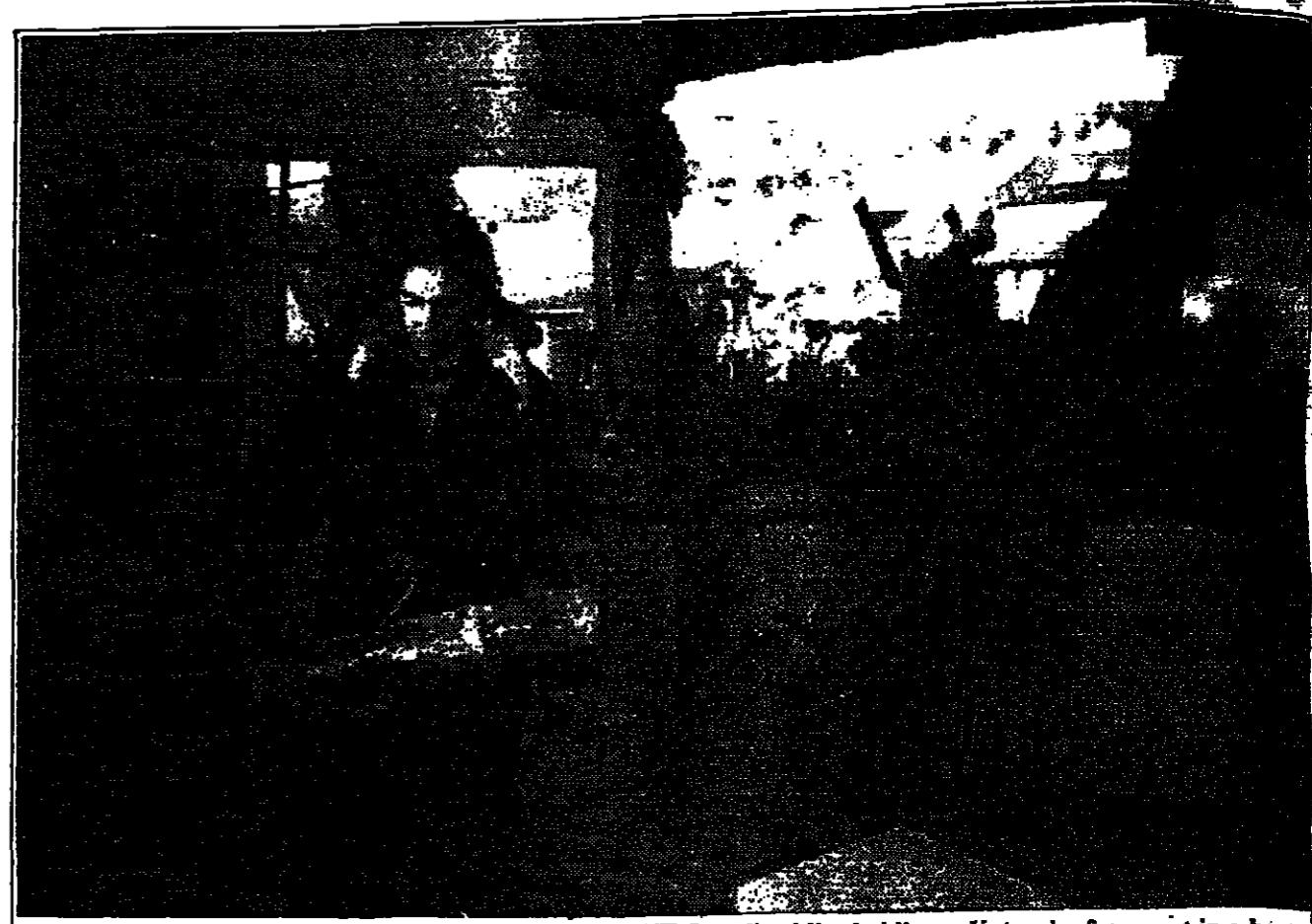
ers, including the Taliban, Uzbek warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum and with ex-premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, top officials here said.

It was the first time the president or any member of his beleaguered government had proposed such talks outside of Kabul, and came amid growing speculation that top administration figures are already talking to leaders of other groups, including Mr. Dostum and Mr. Hekmatyar's parties.

However the Taliban, who regard the Kabul government as illegitimate, have dismissed Mr. Rabbani's offer as a manoeuvre to gain time for military preparations at a time when his administration is under pressure.

More than 60 civilians have been killed in rocket and shell attacks on Kabul during December, while hundreds of others have been injured.

The government has routinely blamed the attacks on the Taliban, who are besieging the city on three sides and threatening to seize it and topple Mr. Rabbani.



ISRAELI SOLDIER HOLDING KATYUSHKA FRAGMENT: Israeli soldier holding a Katyusha fragment in a house demolished by the rocket early Saturday. Hezbollah guerrillas in Lebanon fired Katyusha rockets at Israel causing damage but no casualties. See Page 1 story (Reuters photo)

## First Afghan film since fall of communism released

**KABUL (R)** — An Afghan film company released on Saturday the first feature-length movie completed entirely in Afghanistan since the fall of the communist government early in 1994.

The director of the production company, Sidiq Barmaque, said problems caused by the civil war meant it took two and a half years to make the movie, called "Uruj" (Ascension).

"We finished filming in just three months in the summer of 1993," he said. "But a lack of electricity, equipment that kept breaking down and a shortage of funds meant we couldn't get the post-production work done until now."

"When we tried to buy spare parts for some of our gear from the United States the suppliers wanted to buy the equipment as museum pieces," he added.

The two and a half hour epic traces the transformation of a humble village baker into a Mujahedeen fighter battling Soviet forces occupying Afghanistan during the 1980s.

The company, Afghan Films, had to shoot the film in the north-central province of Parwan because it was the only area it had access to that was free of fighting between rival Mujahedeen factions.

Those factions are still battling one another for control of the country.

In a tragic twist to the film's production, two of the stars were killed this year when a rocket exploded on the studios during the battle for Kabul between government forces and the Taliban.

All the actors in the movie were Afghans and all but one were amateurs, although Mr.

Barmaque said those who played Russians were too embarrassed to attend the premiere.

"They did a wonderful job. But I think they feel they played such convincing roles that they were ashamed to come and admit it was really them," he said.

Producer Noor Hashem Abir said the movie cost \$5 million afghanis (\$40,000) to make and was funded by the government and private investors.

"They all wanted to help re-establish the important role of theatre in this country before it was suppressed and controlled by the old regime," Mr. Abir said.

"We hope that by making this film and the two others we are planning, we will be able to re-equip ourselves and re-train people to get the Afghan film industry moving again," he added.

## Family of Jihad leader barred from leaving Gaza Strip

**DAMASCUS (AFP)** — Israeli authorities have barred the family of Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Abdallah Shahal from leaving the Gaza Strip to join him in Beirut, the Palestinian militant group said Saturday.

Maha Abdul Nasser and her three children tried to leave self-ruled Gaza at the Rafah crossing with Egypt on Friday, the group said from Damascus. But they were stopped by Israeli authorities who control the borders.

In Gaza City, friends of the family said the wife arrived for a visit after Mr. Shahal was named to head Islamic Jihad in late October. She

came from the United States while her husband travelled directly to Beirut.

The children are naturalized Americans, Islamic Jihad said.

Mr. Shahal succeeded Fathi Shqaqi after his assassination Oct. 26 by a suspected Israeli hit squad in Malta. Mr. Shqaqi was based in the Syrian capital while the new chief has moved to headquarters in Damascus.

The new leader of Islamic Jihad, which has mounted anti-Israeli attacks aimed at sabotaging the autonomy deals, left Gaza in 1984 to study in Egypt, Britain and the United States before settling in Lebanon.

## Palestinian media favours Fatah party in elections

**JERUSALEM (AFP)** — Palestinian radio and television overwhelmingly favour candidates from Yasser Arafat's Fatah party in the campaign to elect the first self-rule government Jan. 20, a media watchdog group said Saturday.

"A very sizeable imbalance exists between the different candidates' and parties' access to Palestinian public radio and television," according to a Dec. 15-25 survey completed by Reporters Without Borders.

The Palestinian election campaign officially started Dec. 30 and runs through Jan. 18 to elect an 87-member autonomy council and a president to the executive council.

Fatah, the main faction of Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), is the only party to have had real access to television, with one hour, 11 minutes, 35 seconds of air time during the survey period.

The Palestinian People's Party, a communist group, is the only other political faction to have appeared on television and it received only 17 seconds of air time, the report said.

As for overall programming, Fatah received five times more air time than the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which opposes the PLO peace deal with Israel.

However, Arab programming on Israeli public radio and television "provides equal access to different political groups: 4 mins, 10 secs to Fatah, 2 mins, 9 secs to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is opposed to the autonomy accords, and 1 min, 2 secs for Hamas," the study said.

Mr. Arafat, a candidate for president of the executive council, had more than an hour on Palestinian radio and television, while his sole rival, Samia Khalil, a left-wing community activist, received

no time. Reporters Without Borders said.

Palestinian radio and television stations are currently operated by Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA) which will be replaced by the new self-rule government.

The written press, however, had a "much more diversified image," with 20 groups or parties having access, the study said.

Reporters Without Borders, an independent organisation devoted to freedom of the press, has been monitoring the Palestinian media and press for the upcoming elections. Fifteen observers are participating in the project, financed by the European Union.

The historic first elections are being held as part of the PLO-Israeli accord to establish Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and in towns on the West Bank. About 700 candidates have registered to run for the 87-member autonomy council.

## Egyptian government bans female circumcision in hospitals — again

**CAIRO (AP)** — The government has forbidden state hospitals to perform female circumcisions, just months after authorising them to do so in an attempt to curb botched operations by clumsy amateurs.

State hospitals were quietly told two months ago to stop performing the procedure, but the decision was never publicly announced. A ministry of health official who confirmed the ban attributed the reversal to pressure from women's and human rights groups and fear of U.S. aid sanctions.

Female circumcision, widespread in Egypt and other parts of Africa, is condemned by critics as genital mutilation. The procedure ranges from clipping the tip of a young girl's clitoris to cutting away even the outer sex organs.

Women's and human rights groups were outraged 14 months ago when the government decided to lift a 1959 ban on performing the procedure in state hospitals,

arguing that implied state sanction of genital mutilation.

Hassan Al Kallah, under-secretary of health, said another reason the ban was reintroduced was the fear that U.S. aid for Egyptian health projects could be cut off over the controversy.

But the government says opponents of hospital circumcisions ignore a crucial fact: Unlicensed practitioners do the operation anyway and often bungle it.

Since many doctors refuse to perform the procedure, families take their daughters to midwives or so-called surgical barbers who use anything from dull, dirty razor blades to knives, and often work without anaesthetic.

The result — besides the searing pain of the operation — can be weeks of bleeding, infections, and sometimes death. Women can suffer long-term health problems and have difficulty bearing children.

"People misunderstood us. They thought we were supporting the operation, which

is not true," Mr. Al Kallah said. "We are against it, but we could not change the traditions of the society overnight. We were being attacked by people who did not understand Egyptian culture."

Many Egyptians follow the tradition blindly or think the operation curbs a girl's sexual appetite. Others believe it is ordained by Islam, although Muslim scholars are at odds over this. Some Egyptian Christians follow the practice, too.

They later backed off, arguing a ban would not stop so widespread a practice. Instead, in October 1994, the health ministry decreed that government hospitals must set aside one day a week for the operation.

Al Kallah maintained that the decree's opponents failed to realise that in its efforts to halt the practice, the government is up against a deeply rooted tradition.

But Nebad Lotfy, a lawyer with the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, said that based on comments from

people she has counselled against circumcision, she believed the Egyptian public saw the decree as approving the operation.

"They would say, 'The minister said it is all right. What do you know that the minister doesn't?'" Ms. Lotfy explained.

Mr. Al Kallah said the worst pressure to reverse the decree came from abroad. He cited attacks on Egypt's delegation at September's U.N. Women's Conference in Beijing. Mr. Abdul Fattah also said he was plagued by questions from U.S. officials during a Washington visit.

A New York-based group called Equality Now sent letters urging women's groups worldwide to protest the decree. The idea of using U.S. aid as a weapon against the practice.

Eventually, he maintained, the decree and the warnings could eradicate the practice.

But Nebad Lotfy, a lawyer with the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights, said that based on comments from

## Turkish forces kill 10 rebels

**TURCELLI, Turkey (R)** — Turkish security forces killed 10 rebel Kurdish guerrillas and wounded one on Saturday for the loss of three of their own six wounded in one of the biggest clashes in the east recently, officials said.

They said security forces, backed by Sikorsky assault helicopters and fighter planes, killed 10 members of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in a three-day-long operation in Divrigi and Kangal districts of Sivas province against rebels.

Two members of a crack police team and a soldier were also killed and six other soldiers wounded in the battle.

The officials said the wide-ranging operation was aimed at 150 members of the PKK who had recently fled to Sivas province from the neighbouring Tunceli to escape from the army's year-old crackdown on rebels.

## British defence secretary in UAE

**DUBAI (AFP)** — British Defence Secretary Michael Portillo arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday as London pursued negotiations on a military pact that could help it to promote arms sales to the Gulf nation.

Mr. Portillo, making his first trip here since his appointment in July, met UAE Defence Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ben Rashid Al Maktoum in Dubai, the British embassy said.

He was due to hold talks Sunday with Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Khalifa Ben Zayed Al Nahyan and Army Chief-of-Staff Sheikh Mohammad Ben Zayed Al Nahyan.

"It's part of a regular dialogue. We have a close relationship with the Emirates and this is one way of maintaining it," British embassy spokeswoman Heidi Minshall told AFP.

Western diplomats said Mr. Portillo was apparently seeking to push for the con-

cclusion of a defence agreement which Britain and the UAE have been negotiating for more than a year.

Asked about this possibility, Ms. Minshall said: "I am sure it will come up during the talks, but it is not the primary goal of the visit."

British officials said last month the agreement could be signed within weeks but they did not give details of its terms.

Military sources said a defence pact would support Britain's attempts to sell weapons to the UAE, which is involved in bolstering its army.

Britain lost out to France in a \$235 million anti-submarine helicopter deal struck with the UAE early this year. But it hopes to win a contract to sell frigates to the Emirates for more than one billion dollars.

The UAE is already tied to a defence pact with France, its main weapon supplier and trading partner.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Tel: 610740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel: 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel: 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel: 661757

Teresianine Church Tel: 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel: 623541.

Armenian Church Tel: 652626

Armenian Catholic Church Tel: 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel: 775261.

St. Epiphany Church Tel: 771751.

International Church Tel: 625256.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 624328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel: 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel: 654932

Church of Nazarene Tel: 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman

Tel: 81295

# Home News

Jordan Times, Sunday, December 31, 1995

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## Court of Cassation upholds Criminal Court rulings to execute three convicts

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Court of Cassation Saturday upheld a ruling by the Criminal Court to execute three men in three separate cases, according to the attorney general at the Criminal Court Ghazi Azar.

In the first case, Othman Abu Lawi, 45, was sentenced to death for raping his niece in May.

According to court papers, the 13-year-old's parents left their daughter with their uncle "to take care of her while they left to the West Bank."

The documents added that during that period the convict raped the girl twice. The child, who was not identified, became pregnant and in the seventh month her family discovered her pregnancy and informed the police.

The second convict Daoud Asmar, 25, was also sentenced to death for sodomising, then killing a

15-year-old boy in a farm in Sabab in May of 1995.

According to court documents, the convict lured the victim, who was not identified, to his father's farm promising him a reward of JD 30.

The documents added that Daoud forcefully sodomised the boy and then threatened him.

In his testimony to police, Daoud said he killed the youth by strangulation to conceal the crime.

He said he took the body and dumped it in the bushes near the farm. The victim's body was discovered days later by a farmer.

The court relied on witnesses who last saw the victim with Daoud, as well as the convict's own confession after he was apprehended by the authorities.

The third case involved a 28-year-old man who was sentenced to death after being convicted of murdering a youth in Baq'a on Oct. 29, 1994.

According to court docu-

ments, Abdul Karim Da'jeh lured a 17-year-old youth to an empty pool in Al Tabieh Camp in a Baq'a farm and tied to sodomise him.

In his confession to police, Abdul Karim said that he tried to rape the youth but after he failed he threw him to the ground and the youth fainted, the documents said.

Abdul Karim then used a knife to stab him in the chest and slit his male organ, the document added. The convict buried the murder victim near the pool and then fled.

He was apprehended by authorities two months after the murder was committed, the document said, adding that Abdul Karim confessed and re-enacted the crime.

According to Mr. Azar, the three cases will be referred to the chief attorney general, then the minister of justice, prime minister and finally the King for endorsement of the verdicts.

According to court docu-

## Water pipeline project to supply tourist facilities, residences in Wadi Mousa area

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is implementing water and sewage projects in the Wadi Mousa area, which includes Petra, and the towns of Wadi Mousa and Taybet Zaman, as part of ongoing government endeavours to promote tourism in southern Jordan, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat Saturday.

Speaking after signing a contract with ENEX Contracting Corporation for laying a 24.5-kilometre length pipeline in that region, the minister said the pipeline will reach hotels in the Wadi Mousa district, which, until now, have not been supplied with running water.

The minister acknowledged the need for the supply of water services in Wadi Mousa, an area which has been witnessing a tourism boom but added that tourist facilities there were set up speedily in the area without due consideration to water services.

According to Abdul Majid Afaneh, ENEX general manager, who signed the contract with the minis-

ter, the JD 1.75 million project entails laying pipelines to provide hotels with 150 cubic metres of water per hour.

The contracted company will lay the pipeline, which will draw water from two water wells in Ma'an, and will install two pumping stations along the line as well as build a reservoir to store water in the district, according to Mr. Afaneh.

With the contract providing for the completion of the entire project within one year, the company plans to embark on its work in early January 1996.

Speaking to journalists following the signing ceremony at his office, Dr. Irsheidat said the ministry plans to conduct a feasibility study for the installation of a sewage network and a main wastewater treatment plant also for the Wadi Mousa area.

The sewage project estimated at \$10 million, will be financed through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Dr. Irsheidat referred to the establishment of hotels planned along the east coast



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat Saturday signs a contract with a local contracting corporation for the installation of a water pipeline to supply the Wadi Mousa region (Petra photo)

of the Dead Sea, and said

the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will supply these hotels with the infrastructure of water in accordance to overall government plans for laying out roads, electricity and water networks in the region.

The minister denied there

were disputes between the

government and investment companies over the construction of four hotels in the east coast of the Dead Sea.

He said the delay in laying out infrastructure was caused by investors' time-consuming study of the

contracts.  
Investors of Dead Sea projects have previously complained that the government was not providing sufficient incentives to investors by not providing the infrastructure required to implement tourism projects in the area.

## Man surrenders to police after killing two sisters

By Rana Husseini  
Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — Two Zarqa women were shot and killed by their brother Friday morning in the latest crime of honour to be reported in the Kingdom this year, official sources said.

The women, identified as Kifaya A., 23 and her sister Nadia, 32, were shot and killed by their brother Mohammad A., 38, who first fled the scene but surrendered to the authorities Saturday morning, according to a police official.

The man confessed to the double murder, the official told the Jordan Times. The official declined to release any details concerning the crime.

A 55-year-old man from the vegetable market in Al Sa'edh street, where the incident occurred, said he heard Kifaya (one of the victims) screaming from the first floor window of her house "my brother killed my sister and he wants to kill me."

He added that he saw Kifaya smash the glass of apartment window and jump out, falling through the awning of a shop below, to the ground.

"Kifaya fell on her head, tried to get up again, but fell back. Then her brother appeared at the window and started shooting at her," the man told the Jordan Times.

Another witness who also was present at the busy vegetable market, said she saw Kifaya's brother from the apartment window pointing his pistol towards his sister and shooting at her.

"The first three bullets missed Kifaya but the fourth and fifth struck her in the head, and that was the last thing I saw before I fainted," the 20-year-old woman, who preferred not to be identified, said.

According to the woman, Kifaya and Nadia had a good reputation in the neighbourhood, while their brother, Mohammad, held a criminal record.

"Nadia was married to a man without the knowledge of her brother, and when he learned about it, he killed both his sisters," the woman said.

Another neighbour told the Jordan Times that Mohammad "might have killed his sisters for inheritance reasons."

"Mohammad did not want his sister to inherit money and property" the source said.

Kifaya died instantly while her sister Nadia died on her way to Yajour Hospital of gunshot wounds to the head and chest.

Neighbours said the mother of the victims was rushed to Zarqa Government Hospital following the incident suffering from a nervous breakdown.

Police refused to confirm any of the allegations and said they were questioning the brother.

Kifaya and Nadia became the 12th and 13th women reportedly killed in a "crime of honour" in the Kingdom this year.

Police search suspects in connection with killing

Meanwhile, police Saturday were searching for suspects in connection with the murder of an unidentified man, whose body was found Friday in a red suitcase that was left in the south bus terminal near Mamoura Hotel, according to officials.

An official told the Jordan Times Saturday that the man, apparently in his late 20s, had his throat slit and had also received a blow to the head.

The official said luggage porters in the terminal became suspicious of the red suitcase because it was left alone and called the police.

"At this time, we are still trying to determine the identity of the dead man, and are searching for suspects," the official told the Jordan Times.

## TCC not responsible for telephone disruption

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) said Saturday denied it had anything to do with the failure in telephone contacts with Iraq through the Jordanian international circuit.

TCC Director General Walid Dweik told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the TCC can do little about the disruption, for over two weeks now, in telephone contacts between Iraq and Jordan.

The Associated Press agency earlier quoted Iraqi embassy officials in Amman as saying that the telecommunications department in Baghdad was carrying out repair works on the telephone system which was

damaged in the 1991 Gulf war and that this was causing the current disruption of telephone services.

But other sources said the Iraqi authorities have sharply reduced the availability of international telephone lines, apparently to prevent contacts with opposition groups in exile.

Mr. Dweik said the TCC regretted the service had been disrupted, adding that the corporation will make a public announcement when the telephone contacts with Iraq are restored.

The State Court also set Jan. 2 to start hearing the case of 13 people known as Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance) accused of sabotage after their trial was postponed indefinitely in October because some of the defendants refused to appear.

This witness is not the one we wanted and she is an employee at the legislative department and her job is not related to censorship," Mr. Lafi told the tribunal.

Munjid Namarat, reporter of Al Hiwar newspaper who interviewed Mr. Abu Rishieh also failed to show up at court.

Presiding Judge Hafez Amin agreed to dismiss the witness and to call in a new witness. He set Jan. 4 to continue hearing the case.

Date set for Bay'at Al Imam case

The State Court also set Jan. 2 to start hearing the case of 13 people known as Bay'at Al Imam (pledge of allegiance) accused of sabotage after their trial was postponed indefinitely in October because some of the defendants refused to appear.

The charge sheet said that the suspect started their illegal activities in April of 1994 and plotted to carry out extremist attacks on tourist and security departments in the Kingdom.

told reporters this week. "I thought maybe Israel would come to its senses and... say enough of taking lands and gobbling them."

Ms. Khalil says her top priority, if elected, is to deal with issues she feels really matter to people, including winning the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners still held by Israel.

"I live among people with their emotions, their sufferings," she says.

Born in the village of Anaba in 1923, Ms. Khalil

## Municipality to construct tunnel in accident-prone district

AMMAN (J.T.) — The

defendants, who were expelled twice from court for disrupting the session, charged that some of the attorneys were atheists, and that they did not believe in the court's justice system. They said they would defend themselves or God would decide their fate.

They are charged with slander against King Hussein and illegal possession and manufacturing of explosive materials.

The Jordan Bar Association (JBA) recently appointed seven attorneys to represent the defendants after the court asked the association to do so.

Court sets Jan. 3 to hear CID attack case

A new date, Jan. 3, was also set by the State Security Court to start hearing the case of six people accused of attacking the office of the Central Intelligence Department (CID) at Baq'a refugee camp on Dec. 26, 1994.

The defence had requested that an expert form the Press and Publications Department at the Ministry of Information testify in the case.

"This witness is not the one we wanted and she is an employee at the legislative department and her job is not related to censorship," Mr. Lafi told the tribunal.

The sixth defendant was apprehended by the authorities three days before the incident occurred.

According to the State Prosecutor's charge sheet, the defendants are charged with the intent to block the appropriate authorities (CID) from exercising its duties in accordance with the Constitution and the distribution of pamphlets slandering the King.

The charge sheet said that the suspect started their illegal activities in April of 1994 and plotted to carry out extremist attacks on tourist and security departments in the Kingdom.



WINTERTIME WASHING: A family of tent dwellers takes advantage of Amman's sunny days to dry their washing over a picturesque view of the other world (Photo by Yousef Al'Allan)

## Arafat enters

(Continued from page 1)

the campaign down to less than two weeks, will "allow for new candidates to come forward and for possible appeals to the commission," Mr. Abu Safia explained.

Mr. Arafat has raised the number of self-rule council seats to be contested from 87 to 88, adding an extra seat for Gaza City, the official told AFP.

More than a million

Palestinian voters and 670 candidates have signed up for the polls in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem.

Fifty-one representatives will be elected to the council in the West Bank and 37 in the Gaza Strip.

Voters will also elect the president of an executive council to be chosen by the larger body, with Mr. Arafat expected to easily defeat his only challenger, 72-year-old feminist Samiha Khalil, who

opposes the autonomy deals with Israel.

Ms. Khalil says that if elected, she will work to scrap the Israel-PLO peace agreement she dismisses as a sellout.

Ms. Khalil is aware her's is an uphill battle and that Mr. Arafat will probably win. She says she is using the campaign mainly as a platform for her criticism of Mr. Arafat's Palestinian Authority and to make Israel see reason.

"I am entering the race to raise my voice," Ms. Khalil

## Strike-weary Bangladesh faces more disruption

DHAKA (AFP) — Thousands of strike-hardened commuters struggled to work in the Bangladesh capital Saturday as the opposition's last attempt in 1995 to topple Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government got under way.

As they did so, the military revealed they had detained at least 5,000 people they termed "terrorists and criminals" in a nationwide clampdown ahead of general elections scheduled for Feb. 7.

Defence sources said a total of 8,000 home-made bombs and explosives and 500 guns had been seized.

Security was tightened throughout the country for Saturday's national blockade of road, rail and water-

ways aimed at forcing Ms. Zia to agree to put a neutral caretaker administration in place ahead of the elections.

There were no immediate reports of clashes.

But a spokesman for the state run Bangladesh Railway said three passengers were injured when an engine and three carriages were derailed on Tongi District, on the northern outskirts of Dhaka. "We suspect sabotage," said the spokesman.

Elsewhere train services were halted as "mobs obstructed tracks," rail officials said.

Pickets were also out to prevent buses and vehicles circulating in the capital.

Meanwhile a dissident member of Ms. Zia's ruling

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) urged the prime minister to accept opposition demands in the interests of preserving democracy.

Nurul Islam Moni said in a statement issued Saturday that the whole country was being pushed towards disaster, "the economy is shattered and democracy is doomed." "A little more sincerity" from Zia and her main political rival Sheikh Hasina Wajed could overcome the political crisis, he said, pointing out that differences between the two women had narrowed.

Newspaper reports said Ms. Zia's party was considering an opposition proposal to appoint a council of advisors under President

Abdur Rahman Biswas to oversee the upcoming poll.

So far she has rejected their demands for a neutral administration as unconstitutional.

Mr. Biswas told the official BSS news agency that he would exercise his constitutional powers if necessary. Although a member of the BNP he pointed out that as president he no longer belonged to any party and was neutral.

Ms. Hasina Wajed's opposition Awami League has enforced 26 general strikes this year in a bid to bring down Ms. Zia's government. It has called another 48-hour general strike from January 3.

## Seoul may send more rice to N. Korea — minister

SEOUL (R) — South Korea may consider offering further rice aid to Pyongyang if it was limited to feeding civilians, media reports quoted Foreign Minister Gong Ro-myung as saying Saturday.

"The government may offer rice aid to the North if it could be assured the rice would not be used for military purposes and that accurate investigations are allowed to be made of the food situation there," Yonhap news agency quoted him as saying.

As recently as Wednesday, a day after the North returned five captured South Korean seamen, Seoul ruled out further rice aid to Pyongyang and said the issue depended on the North's willingness to change its belligerent attitude towards Seoul.

The issue of rice aid all depends on North Korea. The return of the Woosung crew should not be seen as a change in North Korea's basic attitude," the deputy unification minister, Song Young-Dae, said.

PyonYang has kept the world guessing in recent weeks by mixing conciliatory gestures with an alleged military build-up on the border it shares with the South.

Tuesday, Pyonyang released five surviving crew members of the fishing trawler Woosung, plus the remains of three of their colleagues. The boat was seized in May after straying into northern waters.

But North Korean troops are alleged to have staged military manoeuvres near the demilitarized zone separating North from South. The two nations have been technically

cally at war since the 1950-53 Korean war. Flood damage this year has depleted already deteriorating food supplies in the North, and led to an unprecedented appeal for help by the reclusive nation.

United Nations food agencies say nearly 2.1 million children in the North risked starvation.

Mr. Gong said the North was 1.2 million tonnes to three million tonnes short of its grain requirement, local media reported.

He was quoted as saying the amount was too large for a single nation to supply on its own.

As the North normally did not like accepting aid purely from Seoul, a consortium of donor nations including South Korea would be a good solution, local media quoted him as saying.

The government also planned to discuss rice aid at a meeting of officials from South Korea, the United States and Japan on Jan. 24-25 in Hawaii, Mr. Gong said.

South Korea shipped 150,000 tonnes of rice to the North this year but halted the programme in October after Pyonyang rebuffed repeated requests to release the Woosung and its crew.

The Korean National Red Cross said it would send an emergency relief shipment of household necessities next month to North Korea. It has already sent two shipments this year, including blankets and other relief goods.

## Cousteau joins Keating Commission to ban the bomb

SYDNEY (AFP) — Renowned French ecologist and explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau has joined the Australian government sponsored commission to ban nuclear weapons in a public relations coup for Prime Minister Paul Keating.

Chinese diplomat Qian Jiadong, a former ambassador for disarmament, has also agreed to serve on the commission, launched by Mr. Keating last month to work out proposals to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

The appointments, announced by Mr. Keating late Friday, came 24 hours after France conducted the fifth in its current series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific, flouting world opinion and drawing another wave of condemnation.

Mr. Cousteau is the second French international celebrity to join the Keating

Commission after former Prime Minister Michel Rocard accepted the appointment last month.

Other members include former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara, and the winner of this year's Nobel Peace Prize Joseph Rotblat.

However, France has said the deliberations of the commission are unlikely to influence French policy or actions.

The latest appointments take to 17 the membership of the commission, which will meet for the first time next month.

Mr. Keating said the commission should be large enough to encompass a range of specialisations needed for its task but not so large as to be unwieldy.

Mr. Cousteau, he said, had a unique international reputation for his work on environmental issues, notably in marine conservation, and a

strong personal commitment to the cause of nuclear disarmament.

"With these two most welcome additions I am confident that the commission is appropriately structured to carry out its mandate," Mr. Keating said in a statement.

The commission will meet in Canberra from January 23 to 25 and has been asked to report by August next year.

Australia's ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Butler, who will head the commission, said this month that it would target rogue states and terrorist groups in its campaign for a global ban on nuclear weapons.

Among its major objectives will be new international legislation halting the production of weapons grade fissile material, Mr. Butler said.

## Final results released for Russian parliamentary elections

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's central electoral commission Friday released final official results for the proportional representation vote in the Dec. 17 parliamentary elections won by the Communist party by a huge margin.

The results came after a final check of all the ballot papers by the commission.

In the proportional representation share of the vote, which filled half of the 450 seats in the state Duma or lower house, the Communist Party came first with 22.3 per cent.

The ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party

(LDPR) came second with 11.18 per cent, followed by the government party Our Home Is Russia with 10.13 per cent and the Liberal Yabloko Party with 6.89 per cent.

None of the 43 parties that competed in the Dec. 17 vote to the state Duma crossed the five per cent minimum barrier to be eligible for seats allocated under the proportional system.

The closest to the five-per cent threshold were: Women of Russia (4.61 per cent), the hard left Communists-Working Russia-for the Soviet Union

(4.53 per cent) and the Nationalist Congress of Russian Communities (4.31 per cent).

The commission said that 69.2 million people voted, out of 107.5 million registered voters. However 1.32 million ballots were declared invalid.

In the single-mandate constituency voting, which fills the other 225 seats, the Communist Party was also well ahead, having won 58 seats, followed by the leftist Agrarian Party with 20, Yabloko with 14 and Our Home Is Russia with 10.

She said that she did not propose to run in the next general election, but hoped to pursue a political career as a Liberal Democrat candidate for European Parliament elections.

Ms. Nicholson has been MP for west... 1987.



Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini confirms at a press conference that he hands in his resignation to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro (AFP photo)

## Dini offers resignation, Italy looks to reform

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Lamberto Dini tendered his resignation Saturday, confronting Italy's rival political forces with a choice between a swift general election or working together to give the country the stability it lacks.

Mr. Dini, a former central banker who has headed an unelected government of technocrats since January, held a brief meeting of his 11-month-old cabinet to advise ministers of his decision, an official statement said.

He then went to the Quirinal presidential palace to submit his resignation offer to President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.

Mr. Scalfaro, the supreme arbiter in Italian politics, has already signalled that he will reserve judgment on the offer and instead send Mr. Dini to parliament for a debate early in January on the country's political future.

The parliament was elected in March 1994 following the disgrace of Italy's old governing class in the country's corruption scandals, but it is so severely splintered that it is incapable of sustaining a political party government.

Ms. Nicholson said she could "no longer remain silent when I see Britain's future endangered by the government's indecision and weak leadership on Europe, and Britain's people neglected by a government which does not care."

Her defection will fuel speculation that a general election will be held next year, although the prime minister may try to carry on until the latest possible date of late spring 1997.

It was the second high-profile defection to hit Mr. Major in three months. In early October, Alan Howarth dropped a bombshell during the runup to the party's annual conference by announcing that he was defecting to the Labour Party, the first Tory MP ever to do so.

Mr. Howarth said at the time that between 30 and 40 other Tory MPs broadly shared his view of the government.

Ms. Nicholson's defection came a day after Conservative Party Chairman Brian Mawhinney told rank-and-file Tories to be prepared for general elections, adding that they could be called next year.

Speaking on British television, Mr. Mawhinney told local Conservative organisations "to put your association on election now."

Ms. Nicholson's defection immediately reduces Mr. Major's commons majority to three, and as a former vice-chairman of the Tory Party her loss will be an unexpected and damaging blow to the government.

She said that she did not propose to run in the next general election, but hoped to pursue a political career as a Liberal Democrat candidate for European Parliament elections.

Police sources said several others were arrested in Friday's operations but this could not be immediately confirmed.

"According to our initial

brought in to the breach after media magnate Silvio Berlusconi's conservative coalition government fell apart just seven months into office.

His long-awaited resignation clears the decks for a decision by parliament on whether to move to an early election, some time in the first half of 1996, or pull together in a cross-party government with two years to revise the constitution.

Mr. Dini remains a prime candidate to head whatever government emerges.

The main centre-right and centre-left blocs are far apart on the type of electoral and institutional reforms that will be needed to give Italy a system of durable, efficient government.

But Mr. Berlusconi, leader of the centre-right Freedom Alliance, and his main rival, leftist leader Massimo d'Alema, both pledged Saturday to try to strike a deal.

Mr. Berlusconi, who has softened his strident calls for a snap election at all costs, told La Stampa newspaper Italy needed a political and social truce to modernise its workings and ensure it was in shape to join a single European currency in 1999.

He called for a "transpar-

ent and open alliance between opposites who for once lay down their arms and set aside partisan interests to work for the good of the country."

"When a business is in trouble the first thing you do is reestablish agreement among its shareholders," the billionaire tycoon said.

Mr. d'Alema, whose ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) is the biggest force in the centre-left "Olive Tree" coalition which has supported Mr. Dini in parliament, said the PDS would not reject Mr. Berlusconi's initiative out of hand.

"We want to explore seriously whether there is room for an agreement. We have already lost 18 months on the path to reforms," he told the PDS newspaper L'Unità.

It was the rival blocs face fines of up to 2,000 pounds (\$3,000) if they do not comply — in the wake of the death of Leah Betts, who died after taking the drug at her 18th birthday party last month.

Her death provoked a national debate on the dangers of ecstasy after the girl's parents appealed publicly to young people to learn from their daughter's fate.

A Camden spokesman said Friday the move "does not legitimise ecstasy. We are not condoning taking illegal substances. We insist on fire escapes, but we don't condone arsonists." Dehydration has been one of the factors in many of the 50 deaths that have occurred in Britain from taking the drug.

**MP held then freed after giving out hashish in the street**

ROME (AFP) — A radical Italian member of parliament, Marco Pannella, who is pressing for the legalisation of soft drugs, was arrested Friday after handing out hashish in the centre of Rome. He was freed after questioning by police but is liable for prosecution.

Mr. Pannella announced some days ago that he would court imprisonment to further his cause. Thursday he gave 200 grammes of hashish to an announced of the state-owned Rai-Due television channel during a live broadcast.

"A deputy caught in the act must be arrested. I threw eight doses and three packets of hashish to whoever wanted them and I must be tried for that," Mr. Pannella told newsmen Friday in the Piazza Navona here.

The distribution and sale of drugs, either hard or soft, is punishable by prison in Italy. Mr. Pannella was arrested earlier this year after a similar incident in Rome. His party is currently collecting signatures for a referendum on the legalising of soft drugs.

## Philippines captures nine alleged extremists



Adel Annon, suspected member of an international terrorist ring, is escorted by Philippine police (AFP photo)

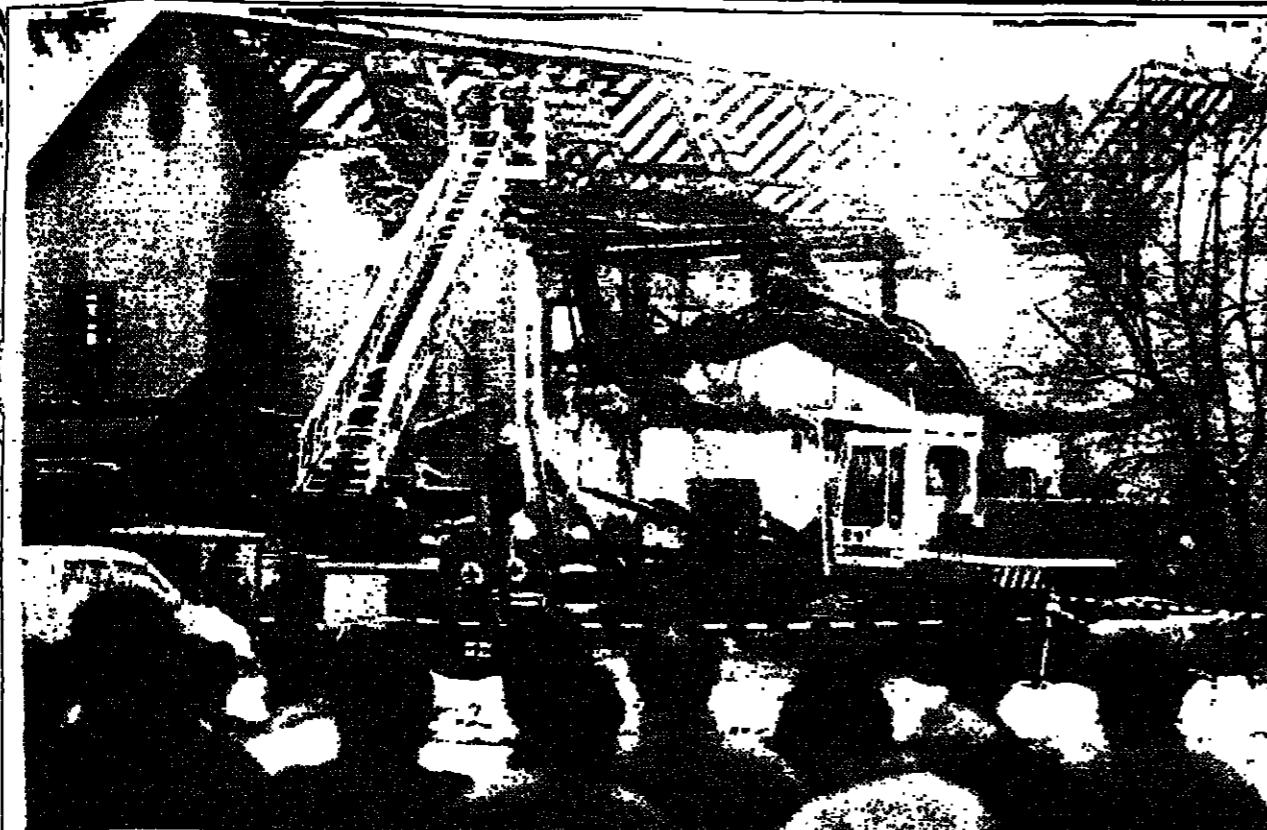
analysis, they are with a global movement calling for a global jihad to promote the establishment of an Islamic empire," Mr. Alunan said in a Manila radio interview.

Police said they seized weapons including plastic explosives, blasting caps, TNT bomb, time fuses, detonating cords and a pistol, along with passports, birth certificates and maps of Manila.

"Given the kind of items that were captured from them, apparently they had plans to detonate bombs or explosive devices (but) to where, how and when and who will be the subject of further interrogations..." Mr. Alunan said.

Mr. Alunan identified the eight others as Abdul Karim Jassim Bidawi, Haleem Jassim Bidawi, Jamaal Jaloud Y Hato, Ibrahim Abid and Najim Nasser Y Taher all with Iraqi passports. Emad Elmubarak Y Ali, with a Sudanese passport and

Philipine officials say Abu Sayyaf gets arms and training from abroad.



Rescue workers and firemen inspect the remains of a burnt out house of a Turkish family in Schopfheim (AFP photo)

## 4 dead as fire destroys Turkish home

SCHOPFHEIM, Germany (AFP) — Four members of a Turkish family died and five others were seriously injured Friday when fire swept through their home in this southwestern town, police said.

Firefighters took three hours to extinguish the fierce blaze after a neighbour sounded the alarm at 5:30 a.m. Police said the cause of Friday's fire remained unclear, but Turks

have been the target of racially-motivated arson attacks in recent years.

Rescuers discovered the body of a 38-year-old woman, her nine-year-old son and his 58-year-old grandmother.

Later another body was pulled from the ruins, believed to be that of a 15-year-old boy.

A 19-year-old, the most severely burnt, was rushed to a specialist hospital in

Zurich for treatment. Firemen said they believed the fire had broken out near a wood stove, and police said they had no evidence as yet to suggest foul play.

In addition to the family flat, the building housed the office of a Turkish association and a car repair workshop.

Germany has been badly shaken by a wave of racially-motivated arson attacks,

notably the November 1992 incident at Moelln, in which three Turkish people died, and a May 1993 fire in which five Turks perished in Solingen.

A spate of arson attacks against Turkish interests in recent months has been blamed by police on the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the outlawed separatist organisation.

## Yeltsin pledges no U-turn over reforms on return to Kremlin

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin vowed to press ahead with his reform process Friday as he returned to his office in the Kremlin for the first time in two months following heart trouble.

"We will not allow anyone to force us into an about-turn," he pledged as he walked through the Kremlin grounds, just 11 days after watching the Communists notch up big wins in legislative elections.

The Russians have had enough of experiments. Russia is now in a situation where, if you push it back, there could be disaster," he added, quoted by the Interfax news agency.

His comments echoed similar statements after the Communists emerged as the country's strongest party in elections to the state Duma, the lower house of parliament, on Dec. 17.

They topped the proportional representation share of the vote, which fills half of the Duma's 450 seats, with 22.31 percent, well ahead of their closest rivals, the ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party on 11.06 percent.

It gave them 100 seats in the Duma, to which they added a further 58 by also topping the poll in single-mandate constituency voting for the other 225 seats.

Pro-reform and government parties did poorly, with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's Our Home Is Russia winning only 9.89 per cent in the proportional vote and 44 seats in the single-mandate vote.

Mr. Yeltsin, 64, also took time during his walk through the Kremlin grounds to praise the "economic stabilisation" of Russia.

"Growth in industrial production has reached two per cent. We are getting out of the crisis," he said.

The decline in industrial production has slowed down sharply this year, but government estimates predict it will still reach three per cent.

The president also pledged not to work 18 hours a day

any more.

"I must not tire myself out."

Mr. Yeltsin was hospitalised on Oct. 26 with a myocardial ischaemia, reducing the flow of blood to his heart. He left hospital a month later to recuperate in a sanatorium in the Moscow suburbs.

In recent television appearances he appeared well-rested, perky and slimmer, confounding earlier predictions his political future was over after his second hospitalisation for heart trouble in four months.

The president's health problems risked seriously undermining his political authority this year.

From "chills" to heart attacks in July and October, from extended holidays to spells in hospital, Mr. Yeltsin spent more than half of the year either resting or having treatment.

When in October he was hospitalised for the second time, analysts said his political future was probably over and it was time to name a successor.

However he is almost sure of running in June's presidential elections, barring further health problems, to stem the rise of Communist forces because he remains the reformists' best hope for staying in power.

During his months of enforced rest, Mr. Yeltsin made sure he held onto the key powers of defence, interior, security and foreign policy, including control of the nuclear button.

But in the coming six months he will need to show much dynamism and press a lot of flesh to overcome public disaffection with reforms and widening poverty which fed the Communists' electoral success.

At present, less than three per cent of the Russian population say they have confidence in him.

## Former S. Korean president's health improves after ending hunger strike

SEOUL (AFP) — Jailed former President Chun Doo-Hwan, who fell unconscious Friday on the 27th day of a hunger strike, has stopped fasting and his health is improving, a senior doctor said.

"Everything is OK with him and Mr. Chun will be able to take thin rice gruel from Saturday evening and beef soup beginning Sunday," Doctor Lee Kwon-Jon of Seoul Police Hospital told Yonhap news agency.

Dr. Lee said Mr. Chun had eaten a little rice soup that had been brought from his home Friday evening and had even joked about his hunger strike.

"Well now that my fast is over, I think all of those who care about my health will be able to have a happy new year's holiday," Dr. Lee quoted the 64-year-old former head of state as saying.

However Dr. Lee did not predict when Mr. Chun might be well enough to return to Anyang Prison

from the hospital where he was rushed last week after losing 10 kilogrammes, erupted in October.

Doctors put the ex-president on oxygen and an intravenous drip Friday when he slipped into unconsciousness, weak, dehydrated and emaciated from the fast and a severe bout of diarrhoea.

The former general-turned-president started the hunger strike when he was jailed on Dec. 3 on mutiny charges related to a 1979 coup. He launched the fast to protest his innocence of the charges.

Prosecutors are also set to charge him with accumulating a massive slush fund while in office from 1980 to 1988, and Saturday said they had discovered \$133 million of the black money in an account opened at the Korea Investment Trust Co.

The statement said that through his fast the former head of state had expressed his determination to defend the legitimacy of the fifth republic, as the era of his presidency is known in South Korea.

## Sri Lanka rebels ready for talks if army leaves Jaffna

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan Tamil Tiger guerrillas ready Saturday they were to resume peace talks with the government if the army left their captured stronghold in the northern town of Jaffna.

The offer came as a rebel suicide bomber blew himself up in the eastern Batticaloa district Saturday morning, wounding an army officer and badly damaging the vehicle he was travelling in.

The rebel Voice of Tigers Radio said the offer by Tiger guerrilla chief Velupillai Prabhakaran was made in a statement read by rebel spokesman Anton Balasingham at a news conference in the north Friday.

The radio, monitored by Reuters in the northern town of Vavuniya, said the

rebels would only resume talks in the presence of foreign mediators.

The offer was similar to one made by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam earlier insisting peace talks could be resumed only after the army left their captured stronghold in the northern town of Jaffna.

The offer came as a rebel suicide bomber blew himself up in the eastern Batticaloa district Saturday morning, wounding an army officer and badly damaging the vehicle he was travelling in.

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Military officials said the rebels, fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east of the majority Sinhalese island, are trying to destabilise Batticaloa.

The rebels shifted a large numbers of their fighters there after the fall of Jaffna in early December.

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Some 200,000 refugees are now in the northern Vanni mainland, south of Jaffna Peninsula, caught in a tug-of-war between the government, which wants them to return to Jaffna, and the rebels who want them to stay put.

In northwestern Mannar, an eight-year-old girl was killed in an airstrike on rebel positions at Periyapandivirachan Friday, residents wounded in the attack said Saturday.

Eight people badly wounded in the attack by two Hind MI-24 helicopter gunships were brought to the Vavuniya hospital.

The military spokesman said he had no information on the airstrike.

## Pakistani strike causes widespread shutdowns

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Life was widely disrupted in Pakistan Saturday as a general strike called by a multi-party religious front which accuses Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of undermining the country's Islamic identity.

Reports from major cities said commercial activity was largely halted with little traffic on roads, amid a heavy police turnout to prevent trouble.

Since U.S. states were restored the right to choose whether to implement the death penalty back in 1976, more than 300 prisoners have been put to death nationwide, 104 of them in Texas alone, according to the Washington-based National Coalition for Abolition of the Death Penalty.

Fifty-eight states have opted to reinstate the death penalty, including New York just this year. According to recent data, more than 3,000 convicts are awaiting execution on death row.

Southern states are those which have executed the most: 36 people were put to death for their crimes in Florida, 29 in Virginia, 22 in Louisiana, and 20 in Georgia since they restored capital punishment.

Last year, 31 people were executed across the country, down from 38 in 1993.

"We are heading towards 100 executions a year," said Steve Hawkins, director of the coalition.

"The prime minister who says deeni madrasas (religious schools) are training centres for terrorists has been proved wrong," the MYC leader said.

He said the government was "undermining the Islamic identity" of Pakistan and waging a campaign against religious institutions and clerics. "We have united to safeguard the country's Islamic ideology," he added.

A partial business shutdown was also reported in the north west frontier province, where MYC members marched in the provincial capital, Peshawar, ahead of a planned public meeting in the city centre.

A nearly complete shutdown of markets was reported in southern Karachi, the country's largest city, and long plagued by political violence that has cost more than 1,800 lives this year.

Karachi roads were almost empty, with good strike-breaking from the city's influential ethnic group, the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), repre-

"The masses are fed up with the government," said 70-year-old MYC chief, Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani.

"We believe in peace. This is a peaceful strike and that is why it is a successful strike," Mr. Noorani said in a statement. "It is proof that people want to show their Islamic identity."

An official spokesman, quoted by The News daily, said the people had complete confidence in Ms. Bhutto's leadership.

Ms. Bhutto's arch political foe, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who heads the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League, has also supported the MYC.

Ashburn Hotel at Fordingbridge, southern England, where he works as head waiter.

Figard had been on her way to spend Christmas with her brother when she disappeared.

The cause of death has not been released.

## Police formally identify body

LONDON (AFP) — Police said Friday they had formally identified a body found earlier in the day as that of missing French student Celine Figard.

Figard's naked body was discovered by a motorist in woods near a motorway rest area in western central England, 120 kilometres

from a gas station near Newbury, southern England, where the 19-year-old accountant student was last seen on Dec. 19 climbing into a white Mercedes truck.

She was formally identified by her 24-year-old cousin Jean-Marc Figard, who had travelled from the



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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

### Subsidies — a crime against the future

IT IS NOW taken for granted that financial subsidies make a bad policy which, sooner or later, leads to destruction. A subsidy would start by an irresponsible official yielding to pressure and making a decision. Subsidies grow like a snowball and finally expose the very security of the country to high risk. This is similar to a sick man buying time in order for the ailment to deteriorate beyond remedy. France and America gave very relevant examples.

France witnessed recently an extended strike which paralysed public life for several weeks. The reason is that at some time a socialist government decided to increase the entitlements and other claims against the welfare system and social security beyond the limits dictated by the proper economic formulas. The beneficiaries of such irresponsible action rejoiced and reelected the same government for a second term, because it allowed them to enjoy a standard of living exceeding their rights, causing huge losses to the welfare system in the process.

Finally came the moment of truth. The French welfare system bankrupt. It is unable to meet its financial commitments and repay its huge debts guaranteed by the government. There is no alternative but to face the problem through a radical restructuring overhaul whereby outlays would be curtailed and subscription premiums increased so that a balance may be restored.

Predictably, the millions of beneficiaries rebelled. They only cared for their entitlements and their good life-styles and standards of living. They took to the streets to force the government to back up and to leave things as they are. What counts is that they should pay less, take more, live happily today and let France and its economy go to hell.

In the United States, government offices were shutdown

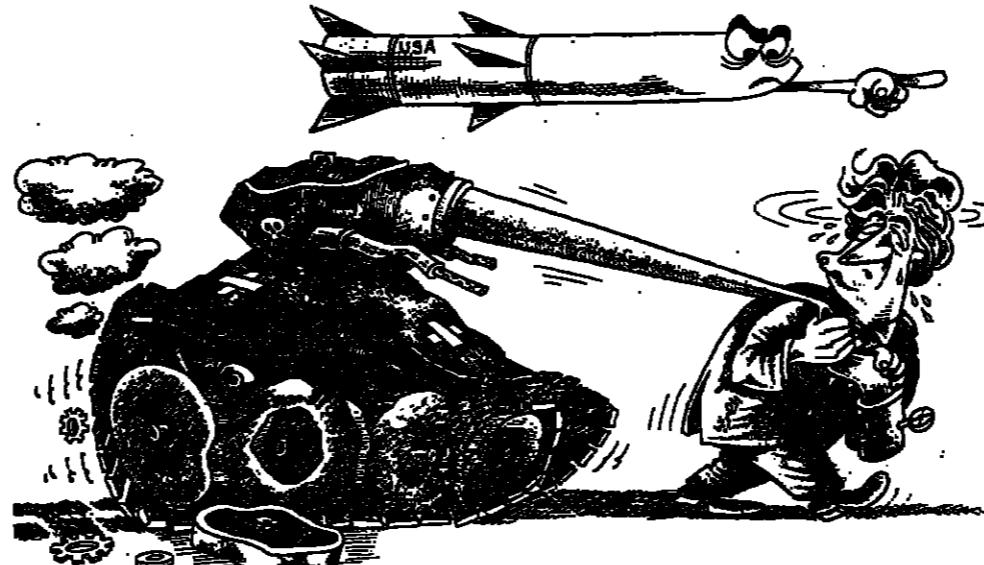
due to lack of funds, because the budget was not agreed upon between the Congress and the president. The Republican Congress insisted on introducing gradual reductions of social expenditure of the budget over seven years in order to balance the budget by 2002, otherwise the treasury will be bankrupt, the dollar will lose value, and prices will break the roof and rise to the sky. However, the Democratic president was not in a position to infuriate the millions of beneficiaries in an election year. Likewise, he cannot raise taxes to cover the deficit, so he revert to his presidential power of veto. Beneficiaries applauded. For them what counts is their entitlements. They want to live today and let America and its budget go to hell.

When a government makes a financial commitment and graciously undertake to subsidise some group or another, someone will have to pay for that. Officials don't pay from their own private funds. Anything they want to pay must be financed one way or another, by taxes, borrowing or begging for grants at the expense of the country's integrity and perhaps sovereignty.

Those in Jordan who call for subsidising water, electricity, bread and feed; demand raising salaries, retirement pensions and social security entitlements without mention of the means to finance them, gain popularity. They are adored by the mob, but in reality they are stabbing the country in the back, sucking the blood of the homeland and risking its security and future.

Subsidies, and dealing with public funds recklessly pushed us to the crisis of foreign indebtedness. They effectively installed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a custodian for our economic policies. This came natural, because the inefficient planner needs a custodian to take care of him.

M. KAHL



### A recipe to solve Iraq

By Dr. Jamal Sha'er

A LARGE majority of the Arab people are concerned about the suffering of the Iraqi people and other people too. Most likely those who see things without being affected by outside influences can see that national reconciliation of the Iraqi people has become a required demand.

It is only through this way that Iraqis can say to the world that they are one unified people. Only then can Iraqi expatriates return to their country without fear, and Arabs and neighbouring countries and the whole world would raise their voices demanding the opening of a new page of cooperation with Iraq.

There is no need to say that the main objective of this national reconciliation is the preservation of the unity of the Iraqi people on all of Iraq's territory and among the different sects. However, this objective could not materialise without following the only viable method (in dealing with the situation in Iraq).

If our King and leader took the initiative to issue a call for a conference that unites the Iraqis in Amman, every Jordanian has to exert all possible efforts to make this call successful instead of jumping into conclusions and predicting its failure in advance, as if some people are only concerned about shaking the confidence in our country and in ourselves. Above all, we are in no need of proving our legitimacy and our qualification to issue

this call. There should also be a freely elected parliamentary council. A senate that equally represents the three areas (of Iraq) and has the power to promulgate independent or joint legislation with the House of parliament and the president should also be formed.

It is only through this way that Iraqis can say to the world that they are one unified people. Only then can Iraqi expatriates return to their country without fear, and Arabs and neighbouring countries and the whole world would raise their voices demanding the opening of a new page of cooperation with Iraq.

Such an effort needs to be the forces that have effective influence and are capable of achievement and action. First of these is the Iraqi leadership itself. I call for initiating contacts at the highest level with the Iraqi leadership to attend the conference or to designate others to participate. In addition, the spiritual leaders of Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites and other minorities should be invited as well as leaders and politicians known for their long experiences and clean conduct and who represent all political, tribal and diplomatic shades as well as academics and human rights activists.

And since national reconciliation necessitates the opening of a new page, the door should be open to all contributions to rebuild Iraq and put its people on the path of progress. The

way to achieve this is to hold consultations at different levels to agree on the list of invitees from inside and the outside as well as to agree on the agenda and the objectives, their implementation and ways of ensuring commitment and follow up to the adopted recommendations.

Those who meet should be the forces that have effective influence and are capable of achievement and action. First of these is the Iraqi leadership itself. I call for initiating contacts at the highest level with the Iraqi leadership to attend the conference or to designate others to participate. In addition, the spiritual leaders of Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites and other minorities should be invited as well as leaders and politicians known for their long experiences and clean conduct and who represent all political, tribal and diplomatic shades as well as academics and human rights activists.

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And since national reconciliation necessitates the opening of a new page, the door should be open to all contributions to rebuild Iraq and put its people on the path of progress. The

Al Ra'i.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE FEELING of optimism which marked the atmosphere surrounding the Israeli-Syrian negotiations in Washington did not result from the death of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, nor did it come as a sudden inspiration of Syrian President Hafez Assad, said a writer in Al Ra'i daily. Most probably, this optimism came about in the light of progress achieved through negotiations going on behind the scenes and outside the framework of the public meetings between the two sides, according to Tareq Masarweh. It seems that Damascus and Tel Aviv are now in agreement on what has been described as "regional peace," which, among other things, provides for Israel's recognition of Syria's interests and privileges in Lebanon, said the writer. Therefore, one can conclude that Syria's earlier display of dissatisfaction with Jordan's attitude and its peace treaty with Israel or the Palestinians' conclusion of the Oslo deals with the Jewish state was tactical, and because they have not waited for Damascus to achieve its own peace with Tel Aviv, said the writer. There is no doubt now, added the writer, that with the achievement of a Syrian-Israeli peace, which is drawing closer everyday, Lebanon will be transformed into a "self-rule area."

FAKHRI KAWAR, a writer in Al Dustour, said the public is dissatisfied with the government's attitude vis-a-vis the coffee question. As an executive authority, the government has the power to end the monopoly of coffee merchants and bring down the excessive prices imposed by a handful of whole sale merchants on the Jordanian people by allowing other merchants to import the coffee, said the writer. He said it was not enough for the government departments not to serve coffee in their canteens, because this is a very limited action that does not have an effective result. The government can force the coffee merchants to lower the prices, and can at the same time help the Jordanian Consumer Protection Society's campaigns, he added. On the other hand, said the writer, supporting the society's endeavours is a national duty; and should this society succeed in bringing down the coffee prices, the road will be paved for it to serve the public through other campaigns in other matters of national interest.

By Philip Taubman

NEW YORK — Many Russians, to rephrase Winston Churchill, apparently believe that communism is the worst form of government except for all the other forms.

That seems astonishing. After enduring all those endless lines in the Arctic winter to buy a stunted head of cabbage, after quietly suffering all the grandiloquent nonsense about Lenin's ideals and studying Marxism-Leninism until the mind went numb, after watching your country sink into an economic and political stupor, how could you vote for the Communist Party?

Millions of Russians did, raising the Communist Party from the dead and making it the most powerful political organisation in Russia. The resurrection is disturbing, yet at the same time intriguing.

In one sense, the vote seems to be the political version of the Stockholm syndrome, the phenomenon common in hos-

tage cases when terrorised victims begin to identify with their captors.

Russia is still recovering from more than seven decades of Soviet tyranny, and many Russians apparently still identify more closely with the dictators who controlled their lives than with the democrats who freed them.

At the same time, many Russians, particularly the elderly and those still living in rural areas, appear genuinely nostalgic for the security blanket that came with communism.

For all the terrible pain it inflicted, and the millions of lives it destroyed, Soviet communism provided a crude safety net that gave citizens the illusion that the Communist Party was looking after their interests. The development of a free market has ripped away the net.

The Communist system

was suffocating, patronising and calculated to keep the country obedient.

Most Russians chose not to take that risk, or ceased to care what the purpose of the system was as long as bread was cheap, jobs were plentiful, education was

free and vacations were

### Lower house rents are possible

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur  
HOUSE RENT and the rent law in Jordan were the subject of my article last week. Today I want to share with you some of what the father of modern economics, Adam Smith, said about the topic of house rent almost two hundred and twenty years ago.

The arguments of this greatest of all economists will no doubt shed new light on our present problem.

Adam Smith recognised that house rent was divided into two parts, the first was a building rent and the second was a ground rent. "The building rent is the interest or profit of the capital expended in building the house. In order to put the trade of builder upon the same level with other trades, it is necessary that this rent should be sufficient, first to pay him the same interest which he would have got for his capital if he had lent it upon good security, and, secondly, to keep the house in constant repair, or, what comes to the same thing, to replace, within a certain term of years, the capital which had been employed in building it. The building rent ... is, therefore, everywhere regulated by the ordinary interest of money." (The Wealth of Nations 1776).

Subsidies, and dealing with public funds recklessly pushed us to the crisis of foreign indebtedness. They effectively installed the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as a custodian for our economic policies. This came natural, because the inefficient planner needs a custodian to take care of him.

According to this method, presented to us hundreds of years ago, the rent law must simply uphold the rights of both parties as specified in rent contract. Unfortunately, the present law in Jordan makes the owner liable to all of the risks associated with interest rate and land price fluctuations which can make the landlord a net loser in the long run. If you receive JD 1,000 per year in rent under the present law and the market interest rate is 9.5 percent, then the present value of the property is obtained by dividing the JD 1,000 by 9.5 percent which is JD 10,526. Note that the higher the interest rate the lower your property value becomes. As a result, landlords either shy away from renting their property or opt to sell it instead to increase their control over their property or they charge exorbitant rents that are supposed to compensate the landlord for all possible property evaluations.

A law as important as the rent law should be based on sound economic principles; the present rent law is not. It is supposed to protect the poor but it doesn't. As I demonstrated last week, it does drive people into building expensive apartments in wealthy neighbourhoods to sell to the upper middle class instead of building inexpensive rental housing units for the lower classes.

The rental law more than any other law has been a cause of misery throughout Jordan. What will happen when it is replaced by a law that protects property and rental rights? People who have been paying the same rent they used to pay in the 1950s will have to pay higher rents, which is hardly unfair since their incomes have increased considerably since then. Simultaneously, more and more real estate investors, especially the institutional investors and major investment corporations, who are presently suffering from a surplus in the selling market, will move into the rental market. As the supply of rental property increases the high rents will fall. Overall a positive change will have occurred. Let's not wait too long.

Let the value of the land that the house was built on be also JD 100,000. The forgone earnings for a year on the land alone will be the earnings forgone from having sold the land and

ing one-party politics, censorship and repression of dissent.

The reporting and the polling data from Russia show that the Communists gained from discontent about an uneven economy and upheaval in Russian life. Voters in Moscow, St. Petersburg and some other urban centres, where the benefits of reform have materialised most quickly, voted for reform candidates. Nearly everywhere else, Communists and nationalists did well, singing from essentially the same page of promises about restoring order and economic stability, shorthanded for the Communist safety net.

Reform in Russia is far from dead, but it has run into a formidable obstacle — the past. To prevail in the months and years ahead, the reformers will have to convince millions of their countrymen that the uncertainty of freedom is preferable to the security of communism, as it was.

The New York Times



### Reform is far from dead, but the communist past is an obstacle

Most Russians chose not to take that risk, or ceased to care what the purpose of the system was as long as bread was cheap, jobs were plentiful, education was

# Salvage project in Southern Ghors highlights scale, persistence of tomb robbing tradition

By Rami G. Khouri

*Special to  
the Jordan Times*

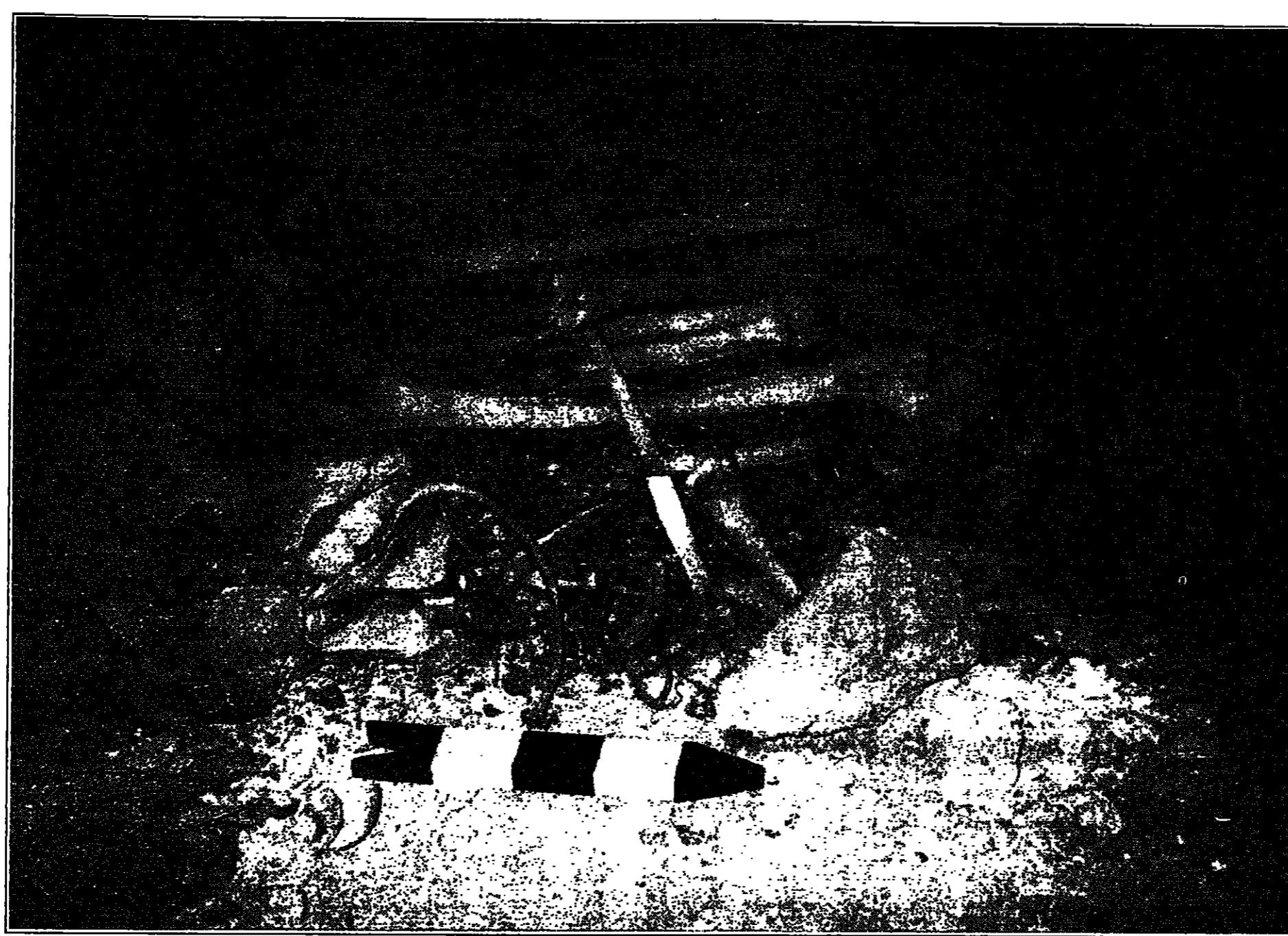
The vexing problem of how to protect Jordanian antiquities sites from the plundering of tomb robbers and their expanding network of clients in Jordan has been dramatised again by recent events at the huge Early Bronze Age cemetery at Bab ed-Dhra, along the south-east coast of the Dead Sea. A recent spree of grave robbing in an area that was not previously known to house a cemetery prompted American archaeologist David McCreery and the Jordanian Department of Antiquities to mount a brief salvage excavation that has added some new information to our knowledge of the culture of the people who inhabited that area five thousand years ago, and our knowledge of the market for stolen antiquities in Amman.

What is so shocking about the theft of tomb goods, mainly pottery, at Bab ed-Dhra's is not only the extent of the looting (hundreds of tombs at a time in some cases) or its long time scale (the problem has been known since the site was first explored in 1924); it is also that the pace of tomb robbing has increased in the Southern Ghors region in recent years, and that stolen antiquities from Early Bronze Age cemeteries are now routinely and openly sold in reputable retail shops in Amman.

The four-day Bab ed-Dhra Salvage Operation in November aimed to map the site, determine its relationship to other known Early Bronze (EB) Age cemeteries in the immediate area, and collect representative pottery, bone samples and any other material goods from tombs that had been illicitly opened and pilfered. Dr McCreery, a professor of religion and archaeology at Willamette University (Oregon, USA) who spent the last half year in Jordan as a Fulbright Scholar, excavated at Bab ed-Dhra in the 1970s and is well versed in Early Bronze Age issues.

His efforts this year identified 39 new EBIA shaft tombs that had been opened by the robbers. Shaft tombs typically comprise a vertical central shaft dug into the ground, from which separate burial chambers radiate horizontally. Tombs could have up to five separate burial chambers connected to a single shaft, though two or three chambers was most typical. The average size of the shafts was about one metre in diameter and two metres in depth. The average oval-shaped burial chamber was 1.8 metres long, 1.7 metres wide and 85 centimetres high.

This thesis is being challenged by some archaeologists who believe that EBIA cultures probably included permanent villages and settlements that we have not identified — either because scholars today have not searched for them suffi-



A typical burial of disarticulated skeletons in an Early Bronze Age tomb at Bab ed-Dhra' (Photo by D. McCreery)

ciently vigorously, or because the nature of the settlements (tent, or straw dwellings, or low mounds of tumulus mudbrick homes) makes them inherently difficult or impossible to identify. Dr McCreery reports that recent bulldozing activity has exposed some mudbrick walls west of Bab ed-Dhra' that probably date from the EBIA period — perhaps from one of the elusive EBIA settlements that may have existed contemporaneously with the early cemetery?

The main reason why EBIA peoples are assumed to have been nomadic is that their burials are almost all secondary burials of disarticulated skeletons — piles of bones that are no longer in a complete skeleton but rather are piled up in a mass of bones, with the skulls neatly lined up next to the body bones. It is assumed that nomadic people on the move buried their dead in temporary cairns (stone piles) that allowed the body to decompose until only the skeleton was left; the bones were then carried in a bag for re-burial in their final resting place in the Bab ed-Dhra' cemetery.

Dr McCreery suggests that we may have to revise our commonly accepted interpretations of EBIA culture in southern Jordan in light of the information being gleaned from Bab ed-

Dhra' and other sites. The predominance of disarticulated skeletons in the EBIA tombs is not necessarily an indicator of nomadic cultures, he says, because disarticulated skeletons were also common in the "charnel houses" that EBII-II townspeople used to bury their dead. It is possible that the cairns used for burials around the country were only temporary decantation chambers where the dead body was placed in order for the flesh and organs to decompose, and in antiquity were not intended to be permanent burial sites.

Disarticulated secondary burials are also practised today by villagers as well as nomads. Dr McCreery believes that we should also take into consideration the possibility that EB cultures had a different view of death than we do today. Perhaps the EB people saw death as merely another act in a person's life, and thought that the dead person departed on a voyage to another world while his or her body was decomposing — with the tail decomposition of the body marking the end of the voyage, at which point the bones could be collected and permanently placed in the ancestral burial ground.

He also points out another factor that argues for a settled rather than a nomadic population in the

EII period: the very intensive exploitation of the burial ground. The tomb chambers were often dug so close together that they opened into one another, creating a kind of honeycombing effect. This suggests that the people who dug the graves knew exactly where the adjacent chambers were located. This argues well for resident tomb cutters who lived permanently in the area and specialised in this activity, rather than itinerant nomads who passed through once or twice a year and cut new graves as needed.

All the skeletons found were disarticulated, except for one fully articulated adult skeleton against the back wall of one chamber.

Most bone piles were found in the centre of the chambers, with skulls laid to the left of the entrance and the bone piles and pottery grave goods around the right side. Most chambers had several burials, both adults and younger people, with three to five skulls commonly found in each chamber.

The bone piles were placed on reed mats, most of which had disintegrated into a powdery form, though in several cases water seepage had formed clear impressions of the reed weaving patterns in the floor. McCreery's team also found uncarbonized wood fragments in ten different

chambers. The most common wood items were staffs measuring some 3 cm in diameter (probably used as walking sticks), but included the remains of a wooden bowl.

An unusual find was a kind of flat wooden "pallet" or "board", of which four were identified. They measured around half a metre long, 2.6 centimetres thick, and some 20 centimetres wide, with one rough and one smooth side and a slightly bowed overall shape. They look like miniature threshing sleds, and originally had several holes in them. The purpose of these wooden boards remains a mystery.

Pottery recovered from the looted tombs included 54 whole and seven partial objects, with evidence that the robbers only were interested in whole objects in perfect condition. A bowl with a few missing rim chips was left behind, presumably because the robbers — or their patrons — thought it was too damaged to sell. The most common pottery shapes were large and medium V-shaped bowls, followed by medium jars, small bowls, and jugs. The pottery seems to closely resemble the early to middle EBIA pottery previously excavated in Cemetery A.

Dr McCreery concludes from the brief salvage sea-

son that the area under question is an extension of a larger known ancient cemetery and not a new distinct cemetery; and that several hundred or even several thousand unexcavated tombs remain to be examined in the area.

## How to protect our heritage?

This raises important and ever more urgent questions about what can or should be done in Jordan to identify unexplored ancient cemeteries and protect them from illicit tomb robbers.

"The recent explosion of tomb robbing activity at Bab ed-Dhra", Safi and Feifeh, coupled with the ambitious development plans for this region in the post-peace era, presents a compelling argument for intensified efforts to protect the antiquities of the Southern Ghors and to conduct further scientific investigations before more data is lost," Dr McCreery told the Jordan Times in a recent interview in Amman.

The naked theft of Jordanian antiquities and our cultural heritage, symbolised by the sale in Amman of EB pottery from Bab ed-Dhra' and other Southern Ghors sites, reconfirms yet again the urgent need to seek a solution to the problem of tomb robbing and illegal excavations. It is now becoming

## King expresses hope

(Continued from page 1)

is bound to offer in compensation to different countries of the world."

"Why do we favour confederation as a future Jordanian-Palestinian option for example and refuse to discuss a federation for Iraq knowing that a confederation is more loose than a federation, and why do we forget that Germany and the United States are federations," he asked.

He said that some people have seen only the negative side of the issue. "What we want is to bolster relations among the Iraqis," the King said.

He expressed hope that there would not be any more confusion as that which occurred in the past about this subject. "The whole issue is for the Iraqi opposition

groups, the King said: "There is no talk about any date or any opposition. But these groups had met in other Arab capitals and continue to do so. In fact our talk stemmed from the pain and the fear over Iraq, its present and future should the Iraqis fail to agree on their fate and on tackling their problem."

On normalisation of relations between Israel and Jordan the King said: "So far the relations are good and the two sides ratified all their agreements stipulated in the peace treaty. But as to the positive result in the wider sense I believe we need some more time because the process requires more time."

In reply to a question about which stage is more

dangerous: dealing with war or peace the King said: "From an Arab point of view I believe that the war option was the one that drove us to the present situation. (War) based on sentiments devoid of reason resulted in a record of tragedies that befall the nation."

"Peace opens the opportunity for this people... We are in a race against time to enable the Arab citizens to achieve what others had achieved ahead of them."

Asked if there was any intention of a government reshuffle in Jordan the King said: "There are no plans for that before passing the budget (through Parliament); afterwards we will see how matters develop."

## Violence in S. Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

around villages near the attack scene and helicopter gunships raked the area with fire, without causing any casualties, according to Lebanese police.

Ivanar Rabinovich, Israel's U.S. ambassador and member of the peace talks delegation, said: "Israel cannot accept a situation in which we continue discussions with Syria while rockets continue to be fired."

The United States was taking "firm moves towards Syria" to stop the attacks, he said.

The warnings contrasted with the upbeat assessments of the peace talks.

Israeli Housing Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said: "for the first time the negotiations began to address fun-

more clear that antiquities theft is not merely due to poverty at the local level near the ancient sites; it also seems to be part of an organised nationwide and international market that includes peddlers in Amman visiting people's homes. One of the unknown but important issues is the involvement of merchants, patrons and middlemen from the main Jordanian cities in the highlands.

While it had always been assumed that most tomb robbing was the work of poor local residents of the Southern Ghors, many archaeologists now tend to lean towards the theory that this is a well organised industry managed by wealthy, powerful patrons and middlemen in Amman and other highland cities who hire the tomb robbers and channel their stolen goods into retail outlets in Jordan and probably abroad as well. A typical Early Bronze Age cup can be bought in otherwise reputable handicrafts shops in Jabel Amman for around eleven dinars. The same piece, when smuggled out of the country, sells for between \$50 and \$100 in Israel, Europe or North America. Given the scale of tomb robbing in Jordan, this is an enormously profitable business. More disturbing are the signs that some stolen grave goods are being sold in handicrafts outlets in which government-owned banks are important shareholders.

The fact is, the mechanics, patrons and causes of the obviously expanding Jordanian tomb robbing industry are not well known, because they have never been systematically studied. Whether this is due to lack of concern or lack of means among the pertinent authorities in Jordan also is not clear. What is becoming increasingly clear, however, is the birth of an organised criminal network of tomb robbers and merchants who practise their craft in the open, and who are also almost certainly developing organised links with international criminal networks of antiquities peddlers.

The Bab ed-Dhra' situation begs a response from government and private sector authorities who have never been able to formulate a credible response to the continuing theft and retail sale of our ancient cultural heritage. The Department of Antiquities has traditionally tried to address the problem by fencing off sites or hiring local guards, but these measures have not had any significant impact on the tomb robbers. The larger problem reflects two basic issues: the fact that the government has never given the Department of Antiquities the money and manpower to deal with this problem, and the fact that Jordan has never tried to develop a national policy to explore means of redressing the problem other than through police actions.

talks aimed at ending a decades-old state of war were continuing over the weekend "on an informal basis" at undisclosed venues in the Washington area.

No word has filtered out on the substance of the discussions that opened Wednesday at a former plantation outside of the U.S. capital under a strict news blackout.

But Brian Cullin, a White House spokesman, said Saturday: "We were very encouraged by the peace talks and expressed confidence that the new rocket attacks on Israel would not slow the process."

The talks on the eastern shore of the state of Maryland were originally scheduled to adjourn before resuming on Wednesday. But negotiators decided instead to remain here to prepare for the next round.

"This is an indication that the talks were constructive," an administration official said.

## Rifai: Investments in new projects total JD 276m

By Khattab Salman  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Investments in new projects in Jordan totalled JD 276 million (\$394.3 million) in 1995, according to the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC).

IPC Director-General Taleb Rifai told the Jordan Times that 118 projects enjoyed the exemptions provided by the investment promotion law this year.

"Total investment in these projects was JD 276 million, JD 95 million (\$135.7 million) of which were loans from bank," Dr. Rifai said.

He noted that the total number of job opportunities provided by these projects was 7,637 which would help in easing the high employment rate in Jordan.

Official figures put the unemployment rate in Jordan between 15 and 18 per cent.

Dr. Rifai pointed out that a total of 7,572 new companies were registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in 1995.

Of the total number, 7,306 were Jordanian, 222 were Arab, and 44 were foreign.

"The total capital of these

companies was JD 341 million (\$487.1 million) with new Jordanian companies accounting for JD 303 million (\$432.9 million), Arab companies JD 31 million (\$43.3 million), and foreign companies JD 7 million (\$10 million)," Dr. Rifai added.

Jordan had introduced an investment encouraging package for foreign investors before the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit that was held in Amman last October, in order to improve investment climate in Jordan. The package provided freedom of capital movement and equal treatment of foreign investors as their Jordanian counterparts.

The government also enacted a law last week that eliminated curbs on foreigners buying on the stock market in Jordan.

"Records at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) show that investments in 1995 reached JD 417 million (\$595.7 million)," Dr. Rifai noted. Foreigners own 32 per cent of the AFM's capitalised stock which amounts to \$4.4 billion in total.

## Russia stays firm on economic reforms but aims to help poor

MOSCOW (R) — A senior minister, giving an upbeat assessment of Russia's economy, said Saturday that reforms would stay on course in 1996, but the government would do more to help those hurt by the painful transformation.

First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said the government would turn its attention more to the social sphere — suggesting it would take account of the communists' success in this month's parliamentary election.

"We plan to keep a general tough anti-inflationary line in financial policy, while trying to find ways to resolve the problems of the social sphere and domestic producers," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted Mr. Soskovets as telling Russian reporters.

Interfax news agency said this would mean protecting some domestic producers against foreign competition and increasing social spending. It gave no details.

"The government's tough financial-budgetary course is necessitated by market re-

forms, and practically all parties acknowledge there is no alternative to them," Interfax quoted Mr. Soskovets as saying.

But it said he added: "Some corrections will certainly be made strengthening the social direction of the government's economic policy."

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and President Boris Yeltsin have said economic reforms will stay on the same course, despite the Communist Party's big gains in this month's election to the State Duma lower house of parliament.

But pressure to slow reforms has grown because the communists based their success on widespread discontent with the hardships endured under this government.

Mr. Yeltsin called Thursday for an improvement in the work of the economy ministry and said "saboteurs" should be rooted out.

But Mr. Soskovets said the overall economic perform-

## Iraq signs deal to supply oil to Jordan in 1996

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq agreed Saturday to supply oil to Jordan in 1996 and said the signing of the deal had not been affected by Amman giving refuge earlier this year to prominent Iraqi defectors.

"We have agreed on quantities, their prices and financial conditions," said Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Mohammad Rasheed at the signing ceremony in Baghdad.

The quantity of crude oil is 3.2 million tonnes a year and regarding oil products approximately 1.2 million tonnes," the minister told Reuters.

The agreement represents the annual renewal of a deal first struck during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis when Saudi Arabia stopped supplying Jordan with oil to punish Amman for its pro-Iraq stance.

Mr. Rasheed said negotiations on the deal were not hampered by the cooling off in relations between Amman and Baghdad following the detection in August to Jordan of two sons-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein among their families.

"In our contacts... there is

absolutely none of this coolness reflected in any way," he said. "Contrary to this, it was done in an atmosphere of brotherhood and between brotherly countries. This was how we felt it, experienced it and implemented it."

According to the Iraqi

news agency INA, the agreement was signed for Jordan by Energy Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Mohammad Al Bashir and for Iraq by Taha Humud Musa, senior under-secretary at the Iraqi oil ministry.

Iraq will send the oil by truck across the border as there is no pipeline linking the two countries.

Iraq and Jordan have agreed in principle to construct a pipeline but the project has gone no further than initial feasibility studies.

"It (the project) is not something that we expect (to happen) next year," Mr. Rasheed said.

## Bahrain reports rise in national workers

MANAMA (AFP) — Bahrain reported an increase in the number of nationals taking up jobs in the private sector as part of the Gulf island's drive to lessen reliance on expatriate labour. During the first 11 months of this year, 7,251 Bahrainis found jobs with the help of the labour affairs ministry while a large number of other nationals were employed in private institutions independently.

"The share of Bahraini employees in the private sector during the first 11 months of the current year reached 29.3 per cent, which is close to the target of 30 per cent set by the ministry for 1995 while it was 27.1 per cent at the end of 1994," Labour Affairs Minister Abdul Nabi Al Shoaifi said.

The statement comes as the United States has been

trying to persuade other countries to join its economic boycott of Iran, which it accuses of supporting international terrorism, charges strongly denied by Tehran.

Mr. Davyдов, who is responsible for economic relations, vowed Thursday to defend Russia "strategic" relations with Iran against pressure from third countries.

"Russia accords great importance to its strategic relations with Iran and it will not allow any country to interfere," Mr. Davyдов said, quoted by Tehran radio, in an apparent reference to U.S. demands on Moscow to end its military and nuclear cooperation with Tehran.

Russian aid for developing the Bushehr nuclear plant in southern Iran as well as building other plants in the

## House panel wants early wage increases, more aid to poor and job creation schemes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament insisted that the increase of JD 10 to salaries of civil servants should be effective as of the beginning of January and not the month of May as the government planned.

The committee, which has been discussing the 1996 draft budget and presented it to House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour in preparation for its discussion by the House next Tuesday, stressed that the continuous rise in prices has weakened the purchasing power of Jordanian families and called on the

government to adopt the appropriate means to put an end to price hikes.

While it considered the government's subsidies to some of the commodities as a burden on the state's budget, especially that the prices have risen internationally, it insisted on the importance of providing support for poor families and reconsidering the food coupons system that has been largely criticised recently.

It also proposed that the government reduce the price of bread and give financial and direct support to poor families.

However, the committee rejected what the government said was a 2.3 per cent rise in prices in 1995 and insisted that prices had in-

creased by a larger percentage.

The committee also insisted that foreign labour should be strictly monitored and that support for the Armed Forces should continue.

Under the chairmanship of Hashem Dabbas, the committee has held several meetings in discussing the draft budget over the past two weeks. Before drafting its final recommendations, the committee consulted with Finance Minister Basel Jaradeh, the general director of the General Budget Department and the ministers of industry and trade, labour, public works, planning, health, water and irrigation and several directors and economy experts.

## Iran, Russia to boost long-term cooperation

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran and Russia have agreed to boost long-term economic and technical cooperation at the end of a three-day visit by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Davyдов, a joint statement said Friday.

Iranian and Russian sources said they would cooperate over the next 10 years, after Mr. Davyдов, who led a high-ranking political and economic delegation, held talks with a series of Iranian leaders.

"The two countries decided to enter into long-term cooperation on the basis of mutual interests and independence of other countries," the official agency IRNA said.

A Russian official said: "This cooperation concerns different projects in the military, nuclear, oil, energy and banking fields."

A document on long-term bilateral economic cooperation will be put to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin to be signed, IRNA added.

The statement comes as the United States has been

trying to persuade other countries to join its economic boycott of Iran, which it accuses of supporting international terrorism, charges strongly denied by Tehran.

Mr. Davyдов, who is responsible for economic relations, vowed Thursday to defend Russia "strategic" relations with Iran against pressure from third countries.

"Russia accords great importance to its strategic relations with Iran and it will not allow any country to interfere," Mr. Davyдов said, quoted by Tehran radio, in an apparent reference to U.S. demands on Moscow to end its military and nuclear cooperation with Tehran.

Russian aid for developing the Bushehr nuclear plant in southern Iran as well as building other plants in the

Khuzestan province was high on the agenda of Mr. Davyдов's talks.

He met with First Vice President Hassan Habibi, Defense Minister Mohammad Furuzandeh, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh and Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh as well as the vice-president and director of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization.

Iranian sources said the visit had helped "to define the framework of our cooperation for the next 10 years" with Moscow.

Mr. Davyдов signed a banking accord with Iranian Economy Minister Morteza Mohammad Khan on "reciprocal financial commitment."

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1995

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Home affairs may be a little difficult during the daytime today, but the evening is fine from the romantic standpoint for you and your mate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 18) Do nothing which can cause an outsider difficulty today, and then you can enjoy pleasure with your close friends and associates.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 19) Early this morning cut down on unnecessary expenditures, and later this evening you can handle duties which interest you.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You feel that you are not having the pleasures in life which should be yours, but by tonight all this will change for you and for the better.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Secret matters do not work as well as you wish at this time, persevere and they improve. Get you home in better order for there to be harmony.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Your friends may not be in a position to agree with your wishes during the daytime today, so be philosophical about it.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 21) Don't try to influence a higher-up who may not be in the mood for such antics. Tonight you get good ideas which will help your future.

SCORPIO: (October 22 to November 21) Pigeon-hole new ideas for the time being, and later tonight you can show your finest talents. Be with close friends and have fun with them.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Try to keep some promise you have made at this time even though it may seem boring to you now and is not prosperous to your abilities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't keep needing a fellow associate during the daytime today and later in the evening, you can be with clever friends who can be helpful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can get many career activities completed at home today and please your family in the evening. A helper can be very cooperative.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) This is a good day today to get the wrinkles out of your creative talents during the daytime, but go to some new site later in the evening. Make new friends.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise — Zircon

## THE Daily Crossword

by Lee G. Barrow

ACROSS

1 Anthropoids

5 Round

10 Coffee

14 Farmer's locale?

15 Investigate (with into)

16 Core of a nerve fiber

17 Concert halls

18 Pungent bulb

19 Coin

20 Cyclorama/old football play

23 Go in

24 Lead removers

28 Aves.

29 Desert

33 Profane, in Hawaii

34 Inner self

35 Colt

36 Illegal rebates/gives in

41 Trumpeter Al

42 Trail user

43 Wing

44 Inane

47 National monogram

50 Audition fare

52 Hammerin' Hank

54 Ruin/retreat

58 Cross a stream

61 Like the inside of a chimney

62 Composer Paul

63 Satanic

64 Mistake

65 Layer

66 Absurd

67 Part of a Mae West quote

68 "I could — horse!"

DOWN

1 Brick houses

2 Formalist

3 Opis

4 Quench

5 Smell

6 Gambling town

7 Radar item

8 Called up

9 Actor Robert

10 Playing cards

# NSCP rejects ministry's intervention in dispute with coffee merchants

*Obeidat says case will be presented to parliament*

By Ghalla Alul  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—President of the National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP) Mohammed Obeidat Saturday rejected the interference of the Ministry of Supply in the society's conflict with coffee merchants over the prices of coffee.

Dr. Obeidat told the Jordan Times that the ministry, which he said is "defending merchants more than they are (merchants) defending themselves" should have no role in this issue.

He added that instead of being the "arbiter," the ministry has become a party to the dispute, which started earlier this month when the society urged citizens to boycott coffee to force merchants to bring down its prices.

"We regret the minister of supply's biased stand in favour of coffee merchants at the expense of consumers. (This stand) goes contrary to the government's support for the coffee-boycott campaign," said a statement issued by the NSCP Saturday.

The Ministry of Supply has indicated approval of coffee prices, saying they were based on legitimate calculations of cost and profit.

Yahya Qawasmeh, director of studies at the ministry, challenged the NSCP to pre-

sent any documents that support its claim that coffee was overpriced.

The NSCP statement described as "strange" the ministry's position, saying that international coffee prices are known. It said the ministry should consult the Customs Department record for accurate information on the prices at which coffee has been imported for the last few months and since they went down at the international market.

Dr. Obeidat said that unofficial data obtained privately from custom's employees prove that the cost at which merchants import coffee is lower than what the ministry's figures show.

He said the reason for this discrepancy is that the ministry usually depends on figures provided by the merchants themselves and does not obtain them from official documents.

The statement said that "unexpectedly", the society has been excluded from the meetings which were held between the ministry and coffee merchants.

"Usually the ministry of supply invites the society to participate in its meetings with merchants regarding pricing of commodities. What we have observed through (the ministry's meetings with coffee merchants) is that the ministry has depended on documents provided by merchants without relying

on its official sources," said the statement.

Dr. Obeidat called for a meeting between the society and coffee merchants during which they would submit their figures and compare them with the ones available to the society.

"The ball is in the merchant's court," Dr. Obeidat added.

He said that the two coffee merchants, whose names he preferred not to mention, had lower prices than the ministry's.

On the other hand, Dr. Obeidat said the reduction of the prices of the "robusta" and "Brazilia" beans does not fulfill the society's demand because "robusta" is considered a "low grade coffee" whose prices are lower than those of grades which the campaign is targeting.

Coffee retailers had told the Jordan Times that "robusta" was not sold to the public until the ministry decided to reduce its price, mixed with "Brazilia", to JD 3.5 per kilogrammes.

Dr. Obeidat argued that the consumer does not know the difference between the "good" and "low grade" coffee, adding that based on the international rates, prices of "low grade coffee" should be reduced to JD 2.25.

He said that based on the figures the society obtained through customs employees,

the proposed price is legitimate, challenging merchants to prove otherwise.

"Coffee merchants should end the confusion the consumers encounter regarding the kinds of coffee and the prices of each kind," he said.

He proposed that retailers present coffee beans in their shops according to their kinds and prices.

In a bid to settle the conflict, Dr. Obeidat told the Jordan Times that the case will be presented to the Lower House of Parliament.

"The House should interfere," said Dr. Obeidat.

The NSCP statement said that through Parliament all information and documents will be presented and the truth will appear.

As for the boycott campaign Dr. Obeidat seemed optimistic and said that its success was "above all expectations".

Some Jordanians, on the other hand, criticised the NSCP's campaign, saying that such a campaign should target more important commodities.

Regarding this matter, Dr. Obeidat said that this campaign marks the beginning of the society's efforts to protect consumers' interests.

"The success of this campaign will prompt us to launch other campaigns in the future," Mr. Obeidat added.

## BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

### Four new major firms complete registration procedures, commence work

★ ★ A NUMBER of new public shareholding companies have recently announced the completion of registration procedures and declared their commencement of operations. The companies are: The National Investment Real Estate Company, the United Textile Group Company and Al Saqr (Falcon) for Investment and Financial Services Company and the Amana Agricultural and Industrial Investments Company.

The National Investment Real Estate Company has a JD 2.5 million capital and will be run by a nine-member board of directors representing the Business Bank, the Housing Bank, the General Arabia Insurance Company, the Industrial Resources Company, Rajai Muasher and Brothers Company, the National Securities Company and Al Mada'in for Multi Investments Company, in addition to Mohammad Zuhai Malhas and Mohammad Yacoub Al Uri. The head of the founding committee, Rajai Muasher, said the company would buy land and real estate in various areas of the country and would engage in building housing, tourism and commercial projects.

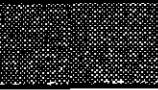
The United Textile Company has a JD 20 million capital spread among 50 shareholders who subscribed to JD 19 million, or 95 per cent of the equity, leaving only five per cent to be covered by new investors. According to Abdul Khaleq Mohammad Hussein, head of the founding committee, a portion of the capital is in the form of fixed assets, given by the partners in the group, valued at JD 12.9 million. The company aims at spinning natural and industrial threads and manufacturing textiles, in addition to trading in ready-made clothes. Mr. Hussein will head the board of directors which also comprises Nidal Abul Haj (vice chairman), Khaled Hussein, Fawzi Sawwan, Usamah Sukkar, Ahmad Mbeideen and representatives from the Arab Bank, the Jordan Gulf Bank and Abdul Khaleq Mohammad and Sons Company.

The Al Saqr (Falcon) for Investment and Financial Services Company has a JD 5.5 million capital of which JD 4,125,000 was covered by the founders and the remainder through private subscription. The company aims at investing in all sectors, conducting studies and consultancy reports and extending credits whether directly or indirectly through agreements with banks and financial institutions. According to Bassam Attari, vice-president of the founding committee, the company will be the first in the Kingdom to buy long-term receivables and debts as well as collecting and classifying credit information for the use of banks and credit institutions. Mr. Attari said the company will begin operations in early 1996. Al Saqr's shareholders are eight banks, three insurance companies and a number of investment firms. Board members are Faical Al Sheikh Amin, Jawad Hadid, Bassam Attari, Fouad Bajjali, Raghib Abdul Rahman, Fares Awartani, Farouq Ziater, Ibrahim Abu Hijleh in addition to the Jordan French Insurance Company, the Orient for Investment Projects company and the Grand Construction Company.

The Amana Agricultural and Industrial Investments Company has a JD 4 million capital of which 92.5 per cent, or JD 3.7 million, is spread among 57 founders and shareholders. The remaining JD 300,000 will be covered later by some investors. The company was registered at the Ministry of Industry and Trade on Sept. 28, 1995, and it aims at carrying out all kinds of agricultural work, including marketing and exporting produce and setting up facilities for flower plantations and hot houses. In addition, the company aims at establishing industries to process animal, agricultural products and fish. Abdul Rahman Al Mughrabi is the board chairman and Aktham Qusous, Amira Beidas, said Hijazi, Ismail Arwan, Nabil Abu Ghazaleh and Samih Al Mughrabi are board members (Al Rai + Al Aswaq + Al Dustour).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET BOSSING MARK CENTER - AMMAN - SEMEISANI TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179 ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/12/1995				
COMPANY & NAME	NO. OF SHARES	VALVE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE JD	CHARGE
JORDAN BANK PLC	640	148710	235.000	+235.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2240	107000	4.500	+4.490
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	100	380	1.200	+1.190
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	5400	6671	1.240	+1.240
THE HOUSING BANK	250	625	2.530	+2.500
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	7900	39238	6.000	+5.050
JORDAN CUTE BANK	873	2651	3.030	+3.040
JORDAN ARAB INVESTMENT BANK	39700	43791	1.120	+1.110
JORDAN LEADERSHIP BANK	1000	38578	3.285	+3.290
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	120	3850	3.200	+3.200
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	3950	14652	3.550	+3.500
ARMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	42460	38919	.920	+.910
JORDAN BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	400	2240	5.340	+5.600
JORDAN PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	23300	31632	1.340	+1.520
<b>PANKS SECTOR</b>	<b>138094</b>	<b>385275</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 188.25</b>	<b>CHANGE: +0.174</b>
MIDDLE EAST INSURANCES	25000	89000	3.500	+3.560
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	850	2355	2.800	+2.750
ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	500	1260	2.400	+2.520
AL-RISH AL-ARABY INSURANCE	900	3935	4.450	+4.300
<b>INSURANCE SECTOR</b>	<b>21250</b>	<b>96550</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER: 130.77</b>	<b>CHANGE: -0.587</b>
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	17768	30913	1.750	+1.720
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	2250	4086	1.810	+1.800
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	1420	1410	1.000	+1.000
JOHNSON & JOHNSON GARDIN CENTER	14200	5998	1.200	+1.200
INDUSTRIAL EQUIP., REPAIRING & MAINTENANCE	4250	2905	.700	+.700
JORDAN PRESS & PUBLISHING /AD-DUSTOUR	500	3985	7.600	+7.970
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMERCIAL HOTEL	3100	7079	2.250	+2.300
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	38250	129795	3.260	+3.420
JORDANIAN SEPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	200	216	1.150	+1.090
<b>STUDIO HAIG</b>				
Professional Quality in 1 Hour Service				
Develop your colour film at our shop and get:				
• JUMBO photo size 30% larger				
• Free enlargement 20 x 30 cm				
All Suites Hotel FLAT-O.TEL				
الجاهز بمستوى على جودة				
Shmeisani - Opp. Grindlays Bank Phone: 604042 Sweifieh tel: 823891				
<b>A SECURE Hotel Sweifieh</b>				
Turino				
FAT.O.TEL SECURITY HOSPITALITY GASTRONOMY				
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We try harder.				
Main office King Abdullah Gardens Tel. 699420				
<b>CROWN HOTEL</b>				
'INDOOR HEATED SWIMMING POOL SAUNA & JACUZZI FITNESS ROOM SQUASH COURT TEL 756180				
SALES OFFICE 605843 - 600157 RADIO & TV STATION RD.				
<b>ASSARAYA Rent a car</b>				
Head Office Tel. 06-6841771 / Fax 684973 Aqaba Office Tel. 03-312655 / Fax 312655 Emergency Call 24 hours 079 / 21526 Shmeisani King Abdullah Gardens				

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SERVICES SECTOR				
1000	2127	1.180	1.190	
26750	61163	2.282	2.250	
38900	42665	1.110	1.150	
				CHAMBER : +0.872
152768	303144	129.91		
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# A final look back at sports champions in 1995

By The Associated Press



NBA MVP Hakeem Olajuwon won their 2nd consecutive title

**BASKETBALL****International**

**European Championship** — Yugoslavia  
**European Champions Club Cup** — Real Madrid, Spain  
**European player of the year** — Arvidas Sabonis, Real Madrid  
**European coach of the year** — Zelimir Obradovic, Real Madrid  
**McDonald's Champsionship** — Houston Rockets

**Professional**

**United States (NBA)** — Houston Rockets  
**Australia** — North Melbourne Giants

**France** — Olympique d'Antibes  
**Germany** — Bayer Leverkusen  
**Greece** — Olympiakos

**Italy** — Buckler Bologna  
**Spain** — FC Barcelona

**BOXING****WBA**

**Heavyweight** — Bruce Seldon  
**Cruiserweight** — Nate Miller

**Light Heavyweight** — Virgil Hill  
**Super Middleweight** — Frank Liles

**Middleweight** — Jorge Castro

**WBC**

**Heavyweight** — Frank Bruno  
**Cruiserweight** — Anacleto Wamba  
**Light Heavyweight** — Fabrice Tiozzo  
**Super Middleweight** — Nigel Benn  
**Middleweight** — Quincy Taylor

**IBF**

**Heavyweight** — Frans Botha  
**Cruiserweight** — Alfred Cole  
**Light Heavyweight** — Henry Maske  
**Super Middleweight** — Roy Jones Jr.  
**Middleweight** — Bernard Hopkins  
**Junior Middleweight** — Terry Norris  
**Welterweight** — Felix Trinidad

**SOCER**

**Nations**  
**Women's world championship** — Norway  
**FIFA world youth championship (under-20)** — Argentina

**FIFA world under-17 championship** — Ghana  
**Copa America** — Uruguay  
**Intercontinental Cup** — Denmark

**Afro-Asian Cup** — Nigeria  
**Caribbean Cup** — Trinidad and Tobago  
**Central American Nations Cup** — Honduras  
**Southeast Asian Games** — Thailand

**International Clubs**  
**Toyota (Intercontinental) Cup** — Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands)  
**European Champions Cup** — Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands)  
**European Cup Winners Cup** — Real Zaragoza (Spain)

**Austrian Cup** — Rapid Vienna  
**Belarus League** — Dinamo Minsk  
**Bulgarian League** — Levski Sofia  
**Bulgarian Cup** — Lokomotiv Sofia  
**Croatian League** — Hajduk Split  
**Cyprus League** — Anorthotos Famagusta  
**Cyprus Cup** — Apoel Nicosia  
**Czech League** — Sparta Prague  
**Czech Cup** — Spartak Hradec Kralove  
**Danish League** — Aalborg Copenhagen  
**Danish Cup** — FC Copenhagen  
**Finland League** — Haka Finland Cup — HJK Helsinki  
**Greece League** — Panathinaikos  
**Greece Cup** — AEK Athens  
**Hungarian League** — Ferencvaros  
**Hungarian Cup** — VAC Samsung  
**Iceland League** — IA Akranes  
**Iceland Cup** — KR Reykjavik  
**Irish League** — Dundalk Irish Cup — Derry City Israel League — Maccabi Tel Aviv  
**Israeli Cup** — Maccabi Haifa  
**Latvian League** — skonto Riga  
**Lithuanian League** — Lekas  
**Lithuanian Cup** — Zalgiris Vilnius  
**Luxembourg League** — Jeunesse Esch Luxembourg Cup — Grevenmacher Macedonia League — Varadar Skopje  
**Macedonian Cup** — Silkes Malta League — Hibernian  
**Malta Cup** — Valletta Moldovan League — Zambru  
**Moldovan Cup** — Tiligul Northern Ireland League — Crusaders Northern Ireland Cup — Linfield Norway League — Rosenborg Norway Cup — Molde

**Asian Champions Cup (1994)** — Thai Farmer's Bank (Thailand)  
**Asian Cup Winners Cup** — Bellmare (Japan)

**European Clubs**

**English League & Blackburn Rovers**

**English Football Association Cup** — Everton

**English League Cup** — Liverpool

**German Bundesliga** — Borussia Dortmund

**German Cup** — Borussia Moenchengladbach

**Italian League** — Juventus of Turin

**Italian Cup** — Juventus

**Spanish League** — Real Madrid

**Spanish Cup** — Deportivo de La Coruna

**French League** — Nantes

**French Cup** — Paris-St. Germain

**Netherlands League** — Ajax Amsterdam

**Netherlands Cup** — Feyenoord of Rotterdam

**Belgian League** — Anderlecht

**Belgian Cup** — Club Brugge

**Portuguese League** — FC Porto

**Portuguese Cup** — Sporting Lisbon

**Scottish League** — Glasgow Rangers

**Scottish Football Association Cup** — Glasgow Celtic

**Albanian League** — FK Tirana

**Albanian Cup** — Teuta Durres

**Armenian League** — Chirak

**Armenian Cup** — Ararat Yerevan

**Austrian League** — Casino Salzburg

**Polish League** — Legia Warsaw Polish Cup — GKS Katowice  
**Romanian League** — Steaua Bucharest Romanian Cup — Petrolul Ploiesti  
**Russian League** — Spartak Moscow Cup — Moscow Dynamo Slovakia League — Slovan Bratislava Slovakia Cup — Inter Bratislava Slovenia League — Olympia Slovenia Cup — Mura Sobota Swedish League — IFK Goteborg Swedish Cup — Halmstad Switzerland League — Grasshoppers Switzerland Cup — Sion Turkish League — Besiktas Stark, United States

**Women's doubles** — Gigi Fernandez, United States and Natasha Zvereva, Belarus  
**Mixed doubles** — Larisa Neiland, Latvia, and Mark Woodforde, Australia

**Wimbledon**

**Men** — Pete Sampras, United States  
**Women** — Steffi Graf, Germany  
**Men doubles** — Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, Australia  
**Women doubles** — Gigi Fernandez, United States, and Natasha Zvereva, Belarus  
**Mixed doubles** — Merritt McGrath and Matt Lutzen, United States

**ATP Tour**

**Newsweek Champions Cup** — Pete Sampras  
**Lipton Championships** — Andre Agassi  
**Monte Carlo Open** — Thomas Muster  
**German Open** — Andrei Medvedev  
**Italian Open** — Muster  
**World Team Cup** — Sweden Dumaurier Ltd. Open — Agassi  
**Thriftway ATP championships** — Agassi  
**Open de la ville de Paris** — Sampras



Five-time Tour de France winner Miguel Indurain

**Turkish Cup** — Trabzonspor

**Ukrainian League** — Dynamo Kiev

**Welsh League** — Bangor City

**Welsh Cup** — Wrexham

**Yugoslavian League** — Red Star Belgrade

**Yugoslavian Cup** — Obilić

**South American Clubs**

**Argentine League** — San Lorenzo-Velez Sarfield

**Brazilian National Championship** — Botafogo

**Bolivian League** — San Jose

**Chilean League** — Universidad de Chile

**Colombian League** — Junior

**Ecuadorian League** — Barcelona

**Paraguayan League** — Olimpia

**Pervian League** — Sporting Cristal

**Uruguayan League** — Penarol

**Venezuelan League** — Caracas FC

**Asian Clubs**

**Japan** — Yokohama Marinos

**CONCACAF Clubs**

**Mexico** — Necaxa

**United States (A League)** — Seattle Sounders

**TENNIS**

**Australian Open**

**Men** — Andre Agassi, United States

**Women** — Mary Pierce, France

**French Open**

**Men** — Thomas Muster, Austria

**Women** — Steffi Graf, Germany

**Wimbledon**

**Men** — Thomas Muster, Austria

**Women** — Steffi Graf, Germany

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**Women** — Steffi Graf, Germany

**ATP Tour world singles championship** — Boris Becker

**HANDBALL**

## Knicks lose; Sonics hammer Celtics 124-85

LANDOVER (R) — The Washington Bullets broke a 15-game losing streak against the New York Knicks Friday, 127-120 in overtime, but had a bad scare when star forward Chris Webber reinjured his left shoulder.

New York, playing without centre Patrick Ewing, never led until overtime, but Gheorghe Muresan's two free throws with 1:05 left in the extra session snapped a tie and Robert Pack hit 9-of-10 free throws in the final 40 seconds as the Bullets beat the Knicks for the first time since November 13, 1992.

It was just the second win in Washington's last 23 games against the Knicks.

Juwan Howard scored 27 points and pack added 25 points for Washington, which lost Webber to a strained left shoulder with 3:53 remaining in OT. Webber had 19 points and seven assists.

Webber drove the lane and lowered his shoulder into New York forward Charles Oakley who fell to the floor. Oakley swiped at the ball and Webber fell awkwardly, staying on the floor for four or five minutes as scary visions of season-ending surgery flashed through the Bullets' minds.

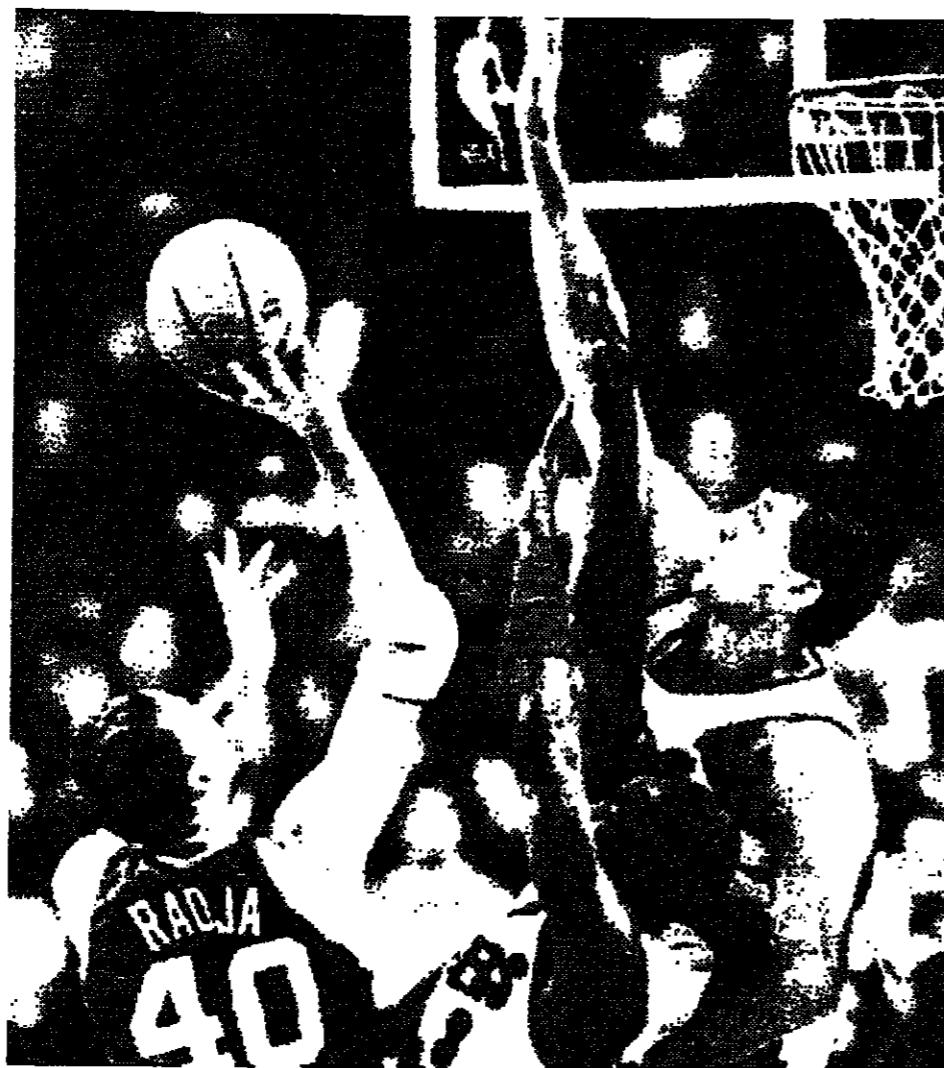
"It's not a dislocation," general manager John Nash said. "It's the same shoulder, but I repeat, it is not a dislocation. He aggravated it when he fell on it."

"The news is better than we first expected. The soreness will dictate what will happen, that is the key. The good news is that we get him back in the near future."

"It couldn't have been a lot worse," Bullets coach Jim Lynam said. "They're saying it's a strain. It wasn't as serious as I first thought. When he didn't get up, I thought it was separated again."

Anthony Mason scored a season-high 30 points and Derek Harper added 21 for New York, which came back from a 16-point deficit in the final 11:27 of the fourth quarter.

Ewing sprained an ankle in the Knicks' loss to Cleveland



Dino Radja (40) of the Boston Celtics tries to shoot over the defense of Clifford Robinson (3) and Chris Dudley (right) of the Portland Trail

Blazers during the first half of their NBA game earlier this week (Reuters photo)

Thursday. New York has dropped three of its last four games.

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 29 points and Scottie Pippen added 23 and eight assists as the Bulls avenged Tuesday's loss with a 102-93 victory over the Indiana Pacers.

Indiana snapped Chicago's 13-game winning streak Tuesday.

"We came out and defended our home court tonight," Jordan said. "I certainly had the idea tonight that I was going for the basket early. I wanted to set a good tone for the team. But ultimately it was our defense that won the game."

In Seattle Gary Payton scored 20 of his 26 points in the first half as the SuperSonics shelled the Boston Celtics 124-85, their worst loss in nearly 30 years.

Seattle has won four straight and 13 of its last 16. The sonics have won eight straight at home, where they are 13-1.

The Celtics have lost five of their last six.

Shawn Kemp scored 24 points and Hersey Hawkins added 20 for Seattle. Rick Fox's 14 points led the Celtics, who shot 33 per cent (30-of-90) from the field.

In Charlotte, Kendall Gill had 16 points, 10 assists, nine

rebounds and blocked James Robinson's potential game-tying three-pointer at the buzzer as the Hornets handed the Portland Trail Blazers their sixth straight road loss, 102-99.

Scott Burrell scored 20 points and Glen Rice added 18 for the Hornets. Clifford Robinson had 26 points and Arvydas Sabonis 21 for Portland.

In Atlanta, Latrell Sprewell scored a season-high 32 points and rookie Joe Smith added 22 as the Golden State Warriors snapped a two-game losing streak with a 117-96 victory over the Hawks.

B.J. Armstrong scored 10 of his 21 points in the final period for the Warriors.

In Orlando, Shaquille O'Neal had 25 points and 10 rebounds as the Magic routed the Los Angeles Clippers 122-98 for their 23rd straight home victory.

Brian Shaw recorded his second career triple-double

with 11 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Magic, who have won all 16 home games this season

and 10 wins overall.

Charles Barkley and rookie Michael Finley each scored 19 points for the Suns, who have won four of their last five.

The Nuggets have lost six straight on the road.

In Sacramento, Mitch Richmond scored 20 points and Walt Williams 18 as the Kings ripped the Philadelphia 76ers 117-97.

The Kings are 11-4 at home overall. Philadelphia, 1-11 on the road, has lost four straight.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 22 points and Clarence Weatherspoon 21 for Philadelphia.

In Phoenix, Wayman Tisdale came off the bench to score 16 of his 26 points in the second half as the Suns reached the .500 mark (13-13) for the first time in nearly a month, 103-92 over the Denver Nuggets.

In Memphis, Steve Smith

scored 19 points and 10 rebounds and blocked James

Robinson's potential game-

tying three-pointer at the

buzzer as the Hornets handed the Portland Trail

Blazers their sixth straight road loss, 102-99.

LONDON (AP) — Europe's Ryder Cup captain Bernard Gallacher, triple jump world champion and record holder Jonathan Edwards and soccer striker Ian Rush are three leading British sports stars honoured Saturday by Queen Elizabeth II.

Gallacher, the non-

playing captain whose

European team won back the

Ryder Cup from the United States at Oak Hill,

Rochester, N.Y. in

September, becomes an

officer of the order of British Empire (OBE).

Edwards, who twice

broke the triple jump world

record with back-to-back

jumps on the way to the

world title in Göteborg,

Sweden, in August, re-

ceives the less prestigious

MBE (Member of the

Order of British Empire).

Rush, who spent a season with Italy's Juventus in 1987-88 but has scored 224 goals in 14 years with Liverpool, also receives the MBE.

Two leading rugby union

players, Welshman Robert

Jones and England's Dean

Richards, are awarded the

MBE while England's rug-

by league captain, Wigan's

Shaun Edwards, gets the

OBE.

Richards, the world's

most capped back row for-

ward, receives an award

despite gaining a 14-day

suspension earlier this sea-

son for stamping and pun-

ching during a game for

Leicester.

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LONDON (AP) — South Korea's Ilhwa Chunma needed sudden-death extra time to beat Saudi champions Al Nassr 1-0 and lift the 15th Asian Club Championship at the King Fahd International Stadium Friday.

The world's most capped player, Al Nassr

captain Majed Abdulrahman, who has played

more than 140 times for his country, was

unable to stop his side slipping to defeat in a

match that was decided for the first time by a

drastic sudden-death goal.

A clinical finish from substitute Lee Ta

Hong just four minutes before the end of the

extra period saw the Koreans emulate the

1985 feat of compatriots Daewoo Royals.

The Koreans rarely threatened the Al Nassr

goal but they made no mistake four minutes

before the penalty shoot-out was due.

Korea's 1994 player of the year Ko Jeong

Woon controlled a cross-field ball inside the

penalty area before cutting back to Lee who

squeezed the ball past Mudhi Aldosari at his

near post.

Iran's Saipa beat last year's champions Thai

Farmers Bank 2-1 in the third place play-off.

The Iranian champions as they hit the

crossbar through Sabih Saran before Phanu-

what's 42nd minute close-range header put

the Thais ahead.

The Thais doubled their lead 16 minutes

after half-time when Worrawoot's excellent

first touch allowed him to lob Jalal Mohbobi

in the Saipa goal.

Saipa pulled a goal back within a minute

when Mehdi Fononizadeh curled a free-

kick around the Farmers' wall from the edge

of the penalty area.

## Korean club crowned Asian soccer champions

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A clinical finish from substitute Lee Ta Hong just four minutes before the end of the extra period saw the Koreans emulate the 1985 feat of compatriots Daewoo Royals.

The defeat for Al Nassr may mark the retirement of Abdullah who will decide on his playing future in the next few days.

However, Al Nassr and Majed Abdulrahman did have their chances to win the game and the Saudi Arabian champions were denied only by the brilliance of Ilhwa defender Stepučkin Gennadi.

The Russian, whose contract with the Korean club expires this weekend, controlled the

free-flowing football of Al Nassr.

Abdul Aziz Al Jenobi and Muhaissen Aljafari tested Ilhwa Chunma goalkeeper Valeri Sarytchev in the first five minutes.

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## Favre edges Smith as top offensive player

NEW YORK (AP) — Brett Favre ended one of the greatest passing seasons in recent years to edge Jim Smith as the NFL offensive player of the year.

And he did it without Sterling Sharpe, who was cut after requiring neck surgery that could end his career.

"It was just an awesome year offensively for the whole unit," said Favre, who won the award with 38 votes from a nationwide panel of 88 sports writers and broadcasters.

Smith, the Dallas Cowboys' star running back, was second in balloting conducted by the Associated Press with 33 votes.

Favre had as many touchdown passes as votes. His 38 touchdowns were the most

## Nigeria pull out of African finals

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria have withdrawn from next month's African Nations' Cup in South Africa.</

# NATO rejects Serb demand to postpone Sarajevo unification

ZUPANJA, Croatia (AP) — NATO rejected rebel Serbs' demand to postpone the reuniification of Sarajevo under the rule of their former enemies, while flooding forced the U.S. army to delay plans Saturday to move into Bosnia over a floating bridge.

U.S. forces also sustained their first casualty Saturday, a soldier who was wounded by a landmine in the northern Bosnian town of Bijela and rushed to the U.S. military hospital at Zupanja.

Also Saturday, Brigadier General Ole Lysgård Jorgensen of Denmark told reporters in Zagreb that hostile armies were withdrawing on all fronts, and pullbacks as specified by the peace treaty should be completed by Jan. 19.

The peace plan signed Dec. 14 in Paris calls for the Bosnian government to resume control of Serb-held areas of Sarajevo by March 19. However, Serbs, who have controlled some of those districts throughout the 3½-year war say they never will submit to rule by the Muslim-led government.

In seeking the delay, rebel Serb leaders said Sarajevo would flee if the transfer of power were not delayed. They warned that many, fearing reprisals from their old enemies and new rulers, would dig up bodies of their dead relatives to take with them.

Serbs suggested the fragile peace accord could be jeopardised without a delay. The Bosnian government has insisted that the transfer take place on time, and that Serbs with blood on their hands be brought to justice.

U.S. Admiral Leighton Smith, overall commander of the NATO force, had said earlier this week that he would consider shifting the deadline to delay the transfer of power. On Saturday, Capt. Mark Van Dyke read a statement from Adm. Smith saying the transfer of authority would begin Feb. 4, as indicated in the peace agree-

ment.

In his statement, Adm. Smith urged Bosnian Serbs in Sarajevo to stay put, saying the NATO force would provide for their security.

Meanwhile, U.S. army engineers gave up plans to move troops and armour into Bosnia on Saturday over floating bridge because flooding made it too risky.

"We'll do it tomorrow morning," said Brigadier General James O'Neal, announcing the one-day postponement.

NATO's supreme commander praised their work.

"The troops are rising to the occasion," said U.S. Gen. George Joulwan, shortly after his helicopter landed on the Croatian side of the river. "It's come a long way," he said of the bridge-building operation.

Despite the Americans' bridge troubles, Gen. Jorgensen said 35,000 of the 60,000 NATO-led troops that will enforce peace in Bosnia had been deployed in Bosnia and the surrounding region by Saturday.

The American soldier injured Saturday by a landmine was not identified, but his condition was said to be stable. Maj. Simon Haselock, a spokesman for the peace mission, said the incident occurred near the Croatian border.

One soldier who would not give his name said the victim was injured in the leg.

In Washington, a senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the soldiers' vehicle, a Humvee jeep, was destroyed.

Though all warning factors are committed to removing mines or mapping their locations under terms of the Bosnian peace treaty, the process has just begun and tens of thousands of explosive devices lie uncharted.

The location of many never will be established because battlefields have shifted countless times during the nearly 4-year-old war.

A light coating of snow

dusted the bridge sections, contrasting with the gray of the sky above and the icy water below.

With the Americans be-

coming a familiar sight on the banks of the Sava, only a few Bosnian government soldiers and about a dozen civilians were on hand to watch the swollen, sluggish river carrying slowly moving army barges and boats and the three Blackhawk Choppers circling above.

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NATO's supreme com-



KING GRADUATES MILITARY COURSES: His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday decorates Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Bint Ali Ben Nayef with Al Hussein Golden Medal for Excellence awarded to her in view of high shooting skills. The awarding ceremony took place at the King, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, attended the graduation ceremony of several Royal Guards courses. King Hussein distributed awards to winners of various military activities. King Hussein and Queen Noor, who were received at the ceremony by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lieutenant-General Abdul Hafez Kaabneh, attended various shows of military skills performed by the graduates. The ceremony was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah, Prince Ali, Prince Hashem, Prince Hamza, Princess Aisha and Princess Zein. In addition, it was attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's private advisor Prince Ali Ben Nayef, the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament and other senior officials (Petra photo)

## Prince Hassan calls for expanding inter-faith dialogue to counter extremism

Lola Keilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday called for expanding inter-faith dialogue in the world in order to reach a universal understanding on ways to combat religious extremism.

In Washington, a senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that due to flooding, the bridge would be some 130 metres longer than previously planned — 460 metres in total. It will be four metres wide.

By early afternoon Saturday, a 230-metre stretch of bridge reaching across a flood plain created two days ago when the Sava overflowed its Croatian bank was completed, and the engineers were bridging the river itself.

A light coating of snow

injured Saturday by a landmine was not identified, but his condition was said to be stable. Maj. Simon Haselock, a spokesman for the peace mission, said the incident occurred near the Croatian border.

One soldier who would not give his name said the victim was injured in the leg.

In Washington, a senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that due to flooding, the bridge would be some 130 metres longer than previously planned — 460 metres in total. It will be four metres wide.

Speaking at the Royal Court during a meeting with the Inter-Parliamentary Council Against Anti-Semitism, which has a 12,000 members in 86 parliaments all over the world, the Crown Prince said that the Islamic world is deeply concerned with the spread of fear of Islam, or what has become to be known as "Islamophobia."

The delegation's visit to the Kingdom came at an invitation by Prince Hassan to exchange views with Jordanian parliamentarians and media scholars to be objective in dealing with Islam.

A study carried out in Britain said that 70,000 cases of racial and ethnic attacks take place annually, with the majority of the vic-

tims being Muslims.

The five-member representatives of the Council who met briefly with speakers of both the upper and lower houses of Parliament, as well as a group of parliamentarians, outlined the duties of their council. They also briefed the parliamentarians on the structure of their organisation, whose membership is mostly non-Jewish and is restricted to parliament members. Associated membership in the council includes both ex-members of parliament and distinguished individuals involved in parliamentary and government institutions.

The Crown Prince, an associated member of the council, said that the unjustified discrimination against Islam in Western countries as mainly represented in attributing acts of terrorism and extremism to Muslims, requires from the Western media and scholars to be objective in dealing with Islam.

Greville Jammer, the chairman of the council and Labour member of the British Parliament told Jordanian parliamentarians that sponsorship of any estab-

lishment to counter discrimination against Muslims should not come from Arab or Muslim countries but rather from individuals. He stressed that such a proposed body should be operating from a non-Arab and non-Islamic country, saying this would be the source of the body's strength.

Except for the "miscommunication" which took place Thursday at the premises of the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) between the delegation and some Jordanian parliamentarians and scholars, "all other meetings went well," an informed source who asked not to be identified told the Jordan Times.

The "miscommunication" developed because the Jordanian side was not informed beforehand about the purpose of the meeting.

## Wife recants sex slave story

MIAMI (R) — A young wife who claimed two years ago that her husband turned her into a sex slave has recanted, saying she made up the story because she feared losing her two children in a custody fight. Miami prosecutors Tuesday were trying to determine whether to file perjury charges against Mabel Jentsch, 23. She told police two years ago that her then-husband aimed a loaded shotgun at her head, turned on the family's video camera and forced her to perform sex acts in the couple's bedroom, nicknamed "the dungeon." The lurid allegations surfaced during a 1993 divorce proceeding between Jentsch and Steven Jentsch, 32. When her husband allegedly threatened to use the sexually explicit video tapes against her to win custody of the couple's two children, Jentsch responded by complaining to police that her husband abused her.

## U.S. executive pleads guilty to drowning wife to avoid trial

ST. LOUIS (R) — A wealthy New Orleans real estate executive has pleaded guilty in the 1986 drowning death of his wife and began serving the balance of a 30-year prison sentence to avoid a third trial. Edward Post, who pleaded guilty this week to second degree murder, was convicted in two earlier jury trials for the murder of his wife, Julie. But both verdicts were overturned, the first because a court deputy allegedly had sex with a juror and the second because hearsay evidence was introduced.

## Diana must have dignified, worthwhile role — Major

LONDON (AFP) — Princess Diana should play a role in public life even if she divorces her husband Prince Charles. Prime Minister John Major has said in a BBC interview. Amid feverish speculation in Britain over a divorce, his comments indicated strong support for Princess Diana's stated desire to have an "ambassadorial" role regardless of the state of her marriage. "Whatever may happen in future between the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Wales, she is the mother of a future king, so the Princess of Wales must have a role in public life, and as I see it always will have a role," Mr. Major said. "It needs to be a dignified role and it needs to be a worthwhile role," he added.

## UAE to curb pollution caused by oil tankers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has decided to take action against oil tankers and other vessels polluting its waters with sludge and industrial waste following a surge in such incidents.

The Federal Environment Committee, created last year to act as an environmental ministry, has almost completed a draft law on the protection of the Gulf country's environment in sea, land and air.

The law, published in Al Khaleej newspaper on Saturday, is to be ratified by President Sheikh Zayed ibn Sultan Al Nahyan, officials said.

It introduced a fine of up to 500,000 dirhams (\$136,240) against ships dumping oil sludge, industrial waste, polluted water and other harmful materials into the UAE's territorial waters and pipelines.

The law followed a surge in waste-dumping incidents and calls by local fishermen for action against those vessels on the grounds and polluting their sandy beaches.

Most of the pollution incidents were reported off the coast of Fujairah and Khorfakkan in the Gulf of Oman, one of the busiest seas in the world.

More than 30,000 oil tankers and merchant ships pass through the Gulf of Oman towards the strategic Straits of Hormuz every year to transport crude and other commodities to and from regional states, which supply nearly a quarter of the world's total oil exports.

Gulf officials have singled out oil tankers, accusing them of dumping sludge and other waste when they clean their tanks before heading for Gulf terminals to lift other crude shipments.

Regional countries have failed to stop such acts given their small naval capabilities and lack of cooperation.

Experts have warned against a surge in marine pollution in the Gulf due to waste-dumping, leaks from oil terminals and pipelines and ship accidents.

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